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PAROCHIAL HISTORY

OF

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It is with the deepest regret we have to record the fact that the author passed away on November 8th, 1900, before his work was issued from the press; he was able, however, to correct the sheets up to the 127th page, and we can only trust that the remainder has been carried out as he would have had it done.

Rev. J. A. WADMORE,
F. WERE,
} *Joint Hon. Secretaries.*

The grateful thanks of the writer are tendered to the Rector of the Parish, the Rev. Henry Vaughan, for access to the valuable "Gorges" papers, left in his custody by the late Rev. Frederic Brown, and for much varied information; to The Lord Aldenham, for allowing reproductions to be made of privately engraved plates in his possession; to the Rt. Honble. Sir Edward Fry, Antony Gibbs, Esq., F. Were, Esq., C. E. Kempe. Esq., Mr. John Price, and other friends, for their valuable and kindly assistance; and to W. Hill Budgett, Esq., and the Rev. W. A. Woodward, for excellent photographic illustrations, to which reproduction has done but scant justice.

WRAXALL CHURCH (EXTERIOR).

From a Photograph by W. H. BUDGETT, Esq.

WRAXALL.

Of the etymology and meaning of this place, anciently written 'Werocosale,' I have no explanation to give.

The parish, an extensive one, bounded on the North by Portbury and Easton in Gordano, on the East by Abbot's Leigh and Long Ashton, on the South by Flax Bourton and Backwell, on the West by Tickenham and Nailsea, includes a large and varied area, extending over the brow of the hills on the North, and the rich meadow land of the broad valley on the South. A block of the Parish of Portbury, invading it on the North, interferes somewhat with the line of its proper boundary at Failand Hill. The prospects it commands include the Bristol Channel to Monmouthshire and the Wye, with the Cotswolds and intervening Gloucestershire country, the mountains of Wales, the wider expanse of sea towards the West, with the Holmes, Worle Hill, and Woodspring, the villages and churches of Dundry, Barrow-Gurney, Flax-Bourton, Backwell, Chelvey, Congresbury, Yatton, Worle, Uphill, Kenn, Kingston-Seymour, Nailsea, Tickenham, and Clevedon, with the Mendips on the South. Its picturesque, irregular limestone slopes are clothed with indigenous yews of fantastic growth, and coppices of hazel, while its meadows produce mighty elms. It is intersected on its higher ground from East to West by the high road from Clifton to Clevedon, and along its lower level by a branch of that from Bristol to Weston.

The acreage of the Parish, anterior to its division in 1811, was 7,594 acres[1]; its present area is 4,125 acres.

The natural features of the village are striking, standing as it does well above the level of the adjoining pastoral country, and underlying in a sheltered nook the wooded hills which protect it on the North and East. Its grey church tower, answering to that of Backwell, beneath the opposite range of hills on the South, forms one of a pair of sentinels, at once protecting and consecrating the intervening valley and its inhabitants. The population during the century has varied as follows:—(1801) 540, (1811) 731, (1821) 769, (1831) 802, (1841) , (1851) 1016, (1861) 912, (1871) 948, (1881) 919, (1891) 921.

Of pre-historic times there are but scanty suggestions. A megalithic monument is said to have stood upon the high ground on Failand Hill, above that known as 'The Bowling Green,' and the small camp at no great distance towards the East, described hereafter under the head of Failand, is probably of Celtic origin. Of Roman occupation several 'finds' of coins give evidence, notably one "upon the prominent part of Wraxall Hill, which overlooks the parsonage-house, all the coins found within a circle of 300 yards in diameter, scattered near the surface, and mostly in a patch of black earth."[2] They were chiefly of brass, and of the later Empire. A more recent discovery on Failand Hill is recorded by Mr. A. E. Hudd, F.S.A., in the Transactions of the Clifton Antiquarian Club, II. 136.

The Act for the enclosure of the waste and common lands in Wraxall and its Chapelries in 1813 states that there were at that date 1,550 acres of such land in Wraxall and Nailsea.

The field names are disappointing, and yield little information.

[1] Som. Rec. Soc., III. 330, gives it as 7,330.

[2] Seyer's Bristol, I. 161.

Inhabitants of Wraxall and their assessments. From the Exchequer Lay Subsidies, 1 Edw. III., 1327–8, in alphabetical order[3]:—

	s.	d.
Atte Ford Johannes	ij.	
Atte Grene Rogerus		viij.
Atte Hulle Willelmus	ij.	
Atte Hulle Willelmus	ij.	
Atte Hulle Willelmus		xij.
Atte Hurne Johannes		vj.
Atte Lane Henricus		vj.
Atte Lane Robertus	ij.	
Atte More Johannes	ij.	iiij.
Atte Mede Nicholaus		xij.
Atte Mulle Ada	iij.	iiij.
Atte Nasch Johannes		xij.
Atte Pyle Robertus		xij.
Atte Wode Willelmus	ij.	
Atte Yo Johannes		vj.
Avenal Adam		xij.
Aylwaker Willelmus		xij.
Berd Willelmus		xviij.
Berd Johannes		xij.
Berhulle Richardus de	ij.	
Berhulle Adamus		xij.
Blavy Johannes		xij.
Bonneconne Johannes		xviij.
Boneth Weye Jonannes		xij.
Bonethweye Robertus		vj.
Bonethweye Richardus	ij.	
Borbrok Ely	ij.	
Boveweye Sampsonus	ij.	
Boveweye Willelmus		viij.
Byerd Nicholaus		vj.
Bythemore Thomas	ij.	
Chelvy Robertus de	iiij.	
Cock Johannes		vj.
Cok Robertus		vj.
Combe Richardus in the		xij.
Cotesbrugge Jul.	ij.	
Courteneye Hugo	x.	
Crosman Philippus		xij.
Crote Willelmus		vj.
Dover Johannes		vj.
Esthovere Ivon	ij.	
Foghclare Rogerus de		vj.
Foyland Augn. de	ij.	
Gele Johannes		xij.
Gange Isabella		xij.
Gocelyn Alicia		xij.
Gynegrove Johannes		viij.
Herberd Johannes		vj.
Hethfeld Thomas		viij.
Holecumbe Ada		vj.
Hommyng Robertus		vj.
Hunderhulle Ada		xviij.
Hurdich Johannes		xij.
Ingrove Willelmus	ij.	vj.
Intone or Incove Willelmus		xij.
Kyng Johannes le	ij.	
Kyng Robertus		xij.
Mogge Walterus	ij.	
Mogge Walterus		xij.
Petide Johannes		vj.
Peytevyn Walterus		xviij.
Proute Johannes le		xij.
Pynnock Rogerus		xij.
Smythe Nicholaus le	ij.	
Smythe Walterus le		xij.
Smythe Richardus le		xij.
Southbrok Johannes		vj.
Stalprat Willelmus		xij.
Staperhulle Walterus		xij.
Strete Johannes		xij.

[3] Som. Rec. Soc., III. 235.

	s.	d.
Swyft Robertus		xij.
Synyar Johannes le	ij.	
Tayllour Radulphus le		vj.
Tracy Johannes de	ij.	
Tracy Johannes		vj.
Tracy Philippus		vj.
Tynte Richardus	ij.	
Uphulle Richardus		viij.
Waleys Walterus	ij.	iiij.
Warwyk Thomas		xij.
Weshovere Willelmus		xij.
Wodeward Johannes	ij.	
Woderugge Robertus de		viij.
Wodhulle Thomas in	ij.	
Whyte Hugo le	ij.	vj.
Wrose Johannes de	ij.	vj.
Youngwode Thomas		xij.
Summa xx^{e} villate predicte	vj^{li}	vj^{d}

From the length of this list, greater than that of any of the adjoining parishes except Portbury, and of higher money value than that, it may be concluded that at the beginning of the 14th century Wraxall was a place of considerable importance and population. The name of Gorges does not occur. The highest payer is Hugo Courtenaye, presumably the lord paramount, under the Crown.

The village is in all respects a model one, its larger houses and cottages substantially built of the native limestone, its model Inn ('The Battle Axes,' the arms of the Gibbs family), its handsome Parish Room, Convalescent Home, and group of Jubilee Almshouses testifying to the thoughtful munificence of the owners of Tyntesfield past and present. The last-named building, close to their entrance lodge, is singularly picturesque, and is intended for old people of both sexes who have been employed upon the estate. A long low cloister in front affords shelter from the Southern sun, the rooms are on the ground floor, and upon the stone chimneys may be traced the fitting legend, GOD MADE THIS REST FOR US. The schools and principal residences in the parish will be found described elsewhere.

THE MANOR.

Aluric, as we learn from Domesday Book, was its Saxon owner. The Conqueror conferred it upon his powerful relative, Geoffry de Mowbray, the fighting Bishop of Coutances, to whom he gave also the adjoining parishes of Weston, Clapton, and Easton in Gordano, Portbury, Portishead, Long Ashton, Barrow Gurney, Winford, Butcombe, Backwell, Kenn, Kingston-Seymour, Weston-super-Mare, and Hutton, besides others at a greater distance.[4]

The entry describing it is as follows:

The same Bishop holds Werocosale. Aluric held it in the time of King Edward, and gelded for twenty hides. The arable is twenty-six carucates. In demesne is one carucate and two servants, and thirty-four villanes, and thirty cottages with twenty-five ploughs. There are two mills of the rent of twelve shillings and sixpence, and one hundred and fifty acres of meadow, and as many of wood. Pasture two miles long and seven furlongs broad. It was and is worth fifteen pounds.

Of the same land of this manor a Knight holds four hides and a half of the Bishop, and has thereon two ploughs with three villanes and four cottagers. It was and is worth fifty shillings.

To this manor is added one hide, which a thane held in the time of King Edward. The arable is one carucate. It is worth ten shillings.

It is probable that the Knight here mentioned as holding under the Bishop may have been a member of the family which took its surname from the place, De Wrokeshale. Of them we have but scanty information.

In 1319 Jeffery de Wroxale was Seneschal of Bristol.[5]

[4] Somerset Arch. Soc., XXXV. 9. Collinson's Somerset, III. 155.

[5] Phelp's Somerset, I. 69. Barrett's Bristol, 674, 697.

1332 } Sir John de Wroxale was Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset.
1334 } The last[6] of the family was Richard de Wrokeshalle, whose daughter and heir married Eudo de Morville, and carried this manor to that family, with large possessions in Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

By the marriage of Alianor, only daughter and heir of Eudo or Ivo de Morville, to Sir Ralph de Gorges, the estates passed to him and his heirs.

The ancient and distinguished family of Gorges derived its name from a hamlet in lower Normandy, from which came—

I. Ranolph de Gorges with William the Conqueror to the conquest of England.[7]

VI. Sixth in descent from his Norman ancestor was Ivo de Gorges, of Tamworth, co. Warwick, whose son—

VII. Sir Ralph de Gorges married for his first wife Margaret, daughter and heir of Robert Fcliot,[8] of Warleigh, in Tamerton-Foliot, co. Devon, and by her, who died in 1239, had issue, with other children, Thomas de Gorges, lord of that manor, in whose descendants it continued for five generations. He married secondly

[6] The *name* occurs in the registers of the neighbouring parish of Easton in Gordano from 1597 to 1738, but not in those of Wraxall. In Bristol, Friar W. Wroxale is mentioned (Bristol Wills, 38) in 1393. Thomas Wraxall was among the Carmelite monks dispossessed at the Dissolution; Nathaniel Wraxall was Sheriff of that city in 1723; Elizabeth Wraxall married Levi Ames, Mayor of Bristol, 1788 (Bristol Past and Present, II. 113).

Upon a flat gravestone at the west end of the Churchyard of St. Mary-le-Port, Bristol, is the following: "This vault belongs to the family of Sir William Lascelles Wraxall, Bart., of Wraxall, in the County of Somerset. August 22nd, 1839," with the arms, in a sunken oval,—an evident variation of the Gorges' coat: 'Lozengy erminois and azure, on a chevron gules three estoiles or.' The present baronet is the grandson of Sir Nathaniel Wraxall, first baronet, the writer of Historical Memoirs.

[7] Hoare's Wilts, III.—Cawden Hund., 39. Baxter's Memoir of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, II. 151.

[8] Arms of Foliot, "Gules a bend argent."

Alianor, daughter and heir of Ivo[9] or John de Morville, whose ancestor previously seated at Portbury, had in the reign of King John married the heiress of Richard de Wrokeshale, and in her right became entitled to the Manor of Wraxall and large possessions in Dorset and the Isle of Wight.[10] He was a renowned warrior, and was with Henry III. whilst that monarch was shut up in 1263 by the rebellious citizens in the castle of Bristol. He was Sheriff of Devon in 1264, accompanied Prince Edward to the Holy Land in 1269, was governor of the castles of Sherborne and Exeter, and died in 1271. His widow, surviving him twenty years, was entrusted with the guardianship of the princesses Eleanor and Johanna, children of Edward I.[11] At her death in 1291 she was seised, *inter alia*, of the manors of Knighton in the Isle of Wight and Bradpole, co. Dorset. Their son—

VIII. Sir Ralph de Gorges, second of that name, married Margaret, daughter of William (or Simon) and Cecilia Caleshall,[12] of Sturminster Marshall, co. Dorset, some time before the death of his father, and by her became possessed of large estates. Their son—

IX. Sir Ralph de Gorges, third of that name, born during the life of his grandfather, about 1266, married Eleanor de Cane, or Cave, by whom he added considerably to his estate. He was Marshal of the army of Edward I. in the wars in Gascony in 1293, at which time he was made prisoner by the French. In 1301 he held a Knight's fee in Braunton, co. Devon. At the siege of Caer-

[9] Eudo or Ivo de Morville gave half a virgate of land at Wrokeshale and the mill of Radeford, and Richard de Wrokeshale, son of Toni, his land at Radeford, to the newly-founded monastery of S. Augustine, Bristol.—Barrett's Bristol, 258.

[10] Cal. Genealog. State papers, 1255. 40 Henry III.

[11] Archæologia, XXIX. 389. Green's Princesses of England, II. 300.

[12] Hutchins' Dorset, II. 125. Visitation of Somerset Harleian Soc., 122.

laverock in 1300 he was one of the foremost in the assault, and was celebrated by the minstrel thus:

Sir Ralph de Gorges there I saw,
One newly bound to Knighthood's law,
Down on the earth was prostrate thrown,
More than once struck by some great stone,
Or staggered by the rushing crowd,
Still to recede he was too proud.
Upon his arms and surcoat's fold
Was masculy of blue and gold. [13]

In 1303 he had a grant of a yearly market in his manor of Siditon, co. Dorset, attended tournaments in 1308 and 9, the latter in opposition to Gaveston: was summoned to Parliament as a Baron (Lord Gorges) by writs 1308 to 1322, is mentioned in the 'Nomina Villarum,' 1315-16, as in possession of Wrokeshale with the hamlets of Charleton, Bratton, and Naylese. He died in 1323-4, 17 Edward II., seized of the Manor of Wrokeshale, which he held by Knight's service of Hugh de Courtenay,[14] feudal Baron of Oakhampton, and of two Knights' fees to the King in capite. His widow[15] married twice after his death—first Sir Guy de Ferre, and secondly Sir John Peche. Lord Gorges left four children—a son, Ralph, and three daughters, Elizabeth, Eleanor, and Jane. His son and heir—

[13] Nicholas' Siege of Caerlaverock, 74, 334–7. Rolls of Parliament, II. 46, and III. 361. This coat, adopted by Lord Gorges in preference to the ancient canting shield of his house, "Argent, a gurge or whirlpool azure," is of some historical interest. It was challenged by the Warbleton or Warburton family, of co. Chester, and was considered of sufficient importance to be carried, by writ from the King, to the court of his Earl Marshal at the siege of Calais, where in 1347 it was awarded to the defendant but with the addition of 'a chevron gules.' The coat styled 'masculy' by the minstrel was really 'lozengy.'

[14] A memorial of this connection may perhaps survive, in the occurrence in the central boss of the groined roof of the tower-porch of Birdcombe Court, of 'two boars bristled and tusked,' the supporters of the Courtenay arms.

[15] Styling herself Alianor, late wife of Ralph de Gorges, she sealed a deed with an escutcheon of 'lozengy, and a cross moline' placed alternately and circularly round the seal. Hutchins' Dorset, I. 279. Note B.

X. Ralph, second Baron Gorges 1324, was born in 1307, and died a minor, without issue, soon after his succession, *i.e.* before 1328, the Barony falling into abeyance.

The coheirs were his three sisters: (1) Elizabeth, who married Sir Robert Ashton, inherited the Dorset estates, and had an only son Robert, who died without issue; (2) Eleanor, who married Sir Theobald Russell, by whom she had two sons—Sir Ralph Russell (among whose issue is her representation) and Theobald Russell, who took the name of Gorges (of whom more hereafter); (3) Jane, second wife of Sir William Cheney, whose representative appears to be Lord Willoughby de Broke.[16]

XI. Eleanor Gorges married Sir Theobald Russell, of Kingston-Russell, co. Dorset, only son of Sir William Russell[17] of that place by Jane Peverel, left an orphan in 1311 at the age of seven by his father's death. Upon reaching his majority in 1325, he attended the King at Plymouth for the defence of the Duchy of Guienne. In 1329 he was one of the wardens of the Isle of Wight, and resisting an attack of the French was mortally wounded in 1341, and was buried in the church of Yaverland. Young as he was, he had been twice married, and left by Eleanor Gorges, his first wife, three sons and one daughter; and by his second wife, Eleanor, daughter of John de la Tour, of Berwick, co. Dorset, a son, William Russell, ancestor of the Dukes of Bedford.[18] His first wife died young, after inheriting the manor of Wraxall. Her eldest son, Sir Ralph Russell, who was of Dyrham, co. Gloucester, succeeding to his paternal estates, carried

[16] Collec. Top. et Geneal., IV. 365–7.

[17] Arms of Russell: 'Argent on a chief gules 3 bezants.' Sir William's father, Ralph Russell, having married Isabel, daughter and heir of James Newmarch, their descendants quartered the arms of Newmarch, 'or, five fusils in fesse gules, on each an escallop of the field.'

[18] Wiffen's Memoirs of the House of Russell.

on the elder line of the family; the second, William Russell, held the manor of Kingston-Gorges by military service, which at his death in 1342 passed to his brother, Sir Theobald Russell, who was portioned with the Manor of Wraxall. Her only daughter, Eleanor Russell, married John Fitz John.

XII. Sir Theobald Russell assumed the surname and arms of Gorges, the latter as determined by the decree already mentioned,[19] obtained in 1362 a grant from the Crown of a weekly market and annual fair at Wraxall, was Knight of the Shire for co. Hants in 1376, High Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset 1380, and dying in 1381, was buried in the church of the preaching friars at Winchester. By his first wife, Margaret, daughter of Thomas Beauchamp, of Hatch, co. Somerset, he had issue four sons: (1) Sir Ralph, who predeceased his father in 1380;[20] (2) Bartholomew, Patron of Bridport, who married Elizabeth, but died childless in 1396, seized of the Manor of Wraxall with its members of Bourton and Naylsay;[20] (3) William, who married Margaret but died without issue, the estates devolving upon (4) Thomas, the youngest son. Their father, Sir Theobald, had married secondly Agnes, daughter of John de Wyk of Court de Wyk, in the parish of Yatton, the special license for which union is thus recorded in the Register of Ralph de Salopia, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and is addressed to John Queynte, priest:—

Ut in oratorio seu capella infra curiam Johannis de Wyke infra parochiam de Yatton nostre diocesis inter Theobaldum Gorges et Agnetem filiam dicti Johannis de Wyke, bannis editis, pront moris est, primitus inter eos licite valeas solempnizare matrimonium citra Natale Domini, dum tamen aliud canonicum non obsistat, tibi licenciam concedimus. Woky. Id. Oct., A.D. 1343.

XIII. Thomas Gorges married Agnes, sister of Sir Thomas

[19] Ashmolean MSS., Bodleian Library, Oxford, 1137, p. 144.

[20] Inq. post mort.: 5 Rich. II., 1381; 20 Rich. II., 1396.

Beauchamp,[21] and relict of Thomas Norton, and died in 1403,[22] seised of the Advowson of Bridport, co. Dorset, and the Manor of Wraxall, with its members. His wife died in 1419. They had four children, John, Theobald, William, and Isabella.[23] John Gorges, the eldest son, married Florence [she remarried Hargrave, and died 1423], and died without issue in 1414, seised of the Advowson of Sturminster Marshal and the Manor of Knighton, Isle of Wight, held under Carisbrook Castle.[24]

XIV. Sir Theobald Gorges became heir to his father upon the death of his brother John, and subsequently, on the failure of heirs male to Sir Theobald Russell, who married Eleanor, daughter of Sir Ralph Gorges, succeeded to the Manors of Horsington and North and South Cheriton, co. Somerset. He was M.P. for the county in 1432, Lieut. of the Castle of Rouen 1447, a Knight Banneret. His first wife was Jane, daughter of Richard Hankford, by whom he had one son, Walter Gorges, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Jane, the wives respectively of Thomas Grenville and John Hatch of Dillon, co. Devon. By his second wife Joan, daughter of John Beauchamp of Lillesden, he had one son, Richard Gorges, who died in 1480, to whom his father gave the manor of Horsington and lands at Sturminster Marshal, and who married Matilda, relict of Richard Harbord [she remarried Sir Henry Roos, and died in 1511], seised of that manor and advowson, which Marmaduke Gorges, the son and

[21] Somerset. Rec. Soc., X. 475. Collinson (III. 157) and Baxter (Memoir of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, II. 159) attribute this marriage to Sir Theobald Gorges, his grandson, nearly a century later.

[22] Inq. post mort., 5 Henry IV., 1404.

[23] Her will, of unusual length and interest, written in contracted Latin, is in the Probate Office in London. A translation made by Mr. S. C. Paris, for the Rev. Fred Brown, is at Wraxall Rectory, and has been printed with other Georges' Wills in the *Transactions of the Clifton Antiquarian Club*, iv. 241.

[24] Inq. post mort., and Index to Exchequer Records.

heir of Richard, having died in 1508–9, Elizabeth, his eldest daughter and co-heir, carried in marriage to her husband Thomas Shirley, Esq.[25] Sir Theobald died in 1467, and was buried in the chancel of Wraxall Church, beneath a massive ledger stone with deeply-cut marginal inscription, twice removed from its original position to the east end of the north aisle in 1851, to the base of the tower in 1893.

XV. Walter Gorges, his eldest son, had died in 1466, before his father, having married Mary, daughter and heir (by Mary, daughter of Lord Willoughby d'Eresby) of Sir William Oldhall, of Fransham, Norfolk, and Hunsdon, Herts, Knight of the Shire for that county and Speaker of the House of Commons, whose mother was the daughter and heir of Sir Henry Englowes,[26] and left issue an only child.

XVI. Sir Edmund Gorges, in ward, as a minor, to John Lord Howard, was made Knight of the Bath, at the creation of Arthur Prince of Wales, son of Henry VII., 1489. He had three wives, of whom the first was the Lady Anne, daughter of his guardian, John Howard [created Duke of Norfolk, 1483, and killed at the battle of Bosworth, 1485], sister of Thomas Duke of Norfolk, who gained the battle of Flodden Field 1513, and great-aunt of Catherine Howard and Anne Boleyn, Queens of Henry VIII.[27] His second wife was Joan, youngest daughter and co-heiress, with her two sisters, of John Hampton of East Harptree. [She had previously married, first Thomas Chokke, fourth son of Sir Richard Chokke of Long Ashton, Judge of the Common Pleas, and

[25] Collinson's Somerset, II. 372. Weaver's Somerset Incumbents, 106.

[26] The Arms of Oldhall and Englowes acquired by this marriage were cherished by its descendants, and subsequently employed in all their monumental and other achievements:—'Gules, a lion rampant ermine,' Oldhall. 'Argent, a chevron between three gads sable,' Englowes.

[27] Burke's Peerage, under Norfolk.

secondly Thomas, second son of Sir John Newton of Court de Wyk, by whom she had four children, her third son Sir Thomas Newton marrying Margaret, daughter of Sir Edmund Gorges by his first wife, Lady Anne Howard. She married thirdly Sir Edmund Gorges, and died 1506, leaving one son by him, Walter Gorges.] Sir Edmund's third wife was Jane, daughter of Thomas Copston and relict of Sir Morgan Kydwelly of the Isle of Purbeck, Attorney-General 1483, Knight of the Bath, 1501, died 1505. [After Sir Edmund's death, she married Simon Littlecot of Orcheston, co. Wilts, and died 1524.] By his first wife, Lady Anne Howard, Sir Edmund Gorges had issue three[28] sons, Sir Edward, of whom presently, who continued the Wraxall line, William, and John, and one daughter Margaret, wife, as already mentioned, of Sir Thomas Newton, knighted on the field of Flodden, eldest son of Thomas Newton of Court de Wyk, by Joan Hampton, relict of Thomas Chokke. Sir Edmund Gorges died in 1512, seised of the manors of Wraxall, Braunton-Gorges, and Sturminster Marshall, and was buried in the Chancel of Wraxall Church, under a fine altar tomb, which he had presumably constructed after the death of his first wife, as it supports her effigy and his own. (2) His second son, Sir William Gorges, mentioned among the captains who received ordnance at Southampton in 1513, was of Birdcombe, styled a 'manor' in his father's will, and noticed by Leland, c. 1540, as 'a mean old maner place in a valley, and on each side of it on the hills a fair park.' (3) Of John, the third son, nothing is known beyond the mention of him in his father's will.

XVII. His eldest son and heir, Sir Edward Gorges, Knight,

[28] Collinson (III. 157) says "five sons and three daughters." Sir R. Hoare (Hist. of Wilts, Hundred of Cawden, III. 30) credits him with three more sons, George, Thomas, and Nicholas, and two more daughters. Both historians are probably in error.

was aged about 30 at his father's death. He was High Sheriff of Somerset 1529, and died 1566. His will is at Wells.

By his wife Mary, daughter of Sir Antony Poyntz[29] of Iron Acton, co. Gloucester, and sister of Margaret, wife of Sir John Newton,[30] he had five sons and three daughters.

1. Edmund Gorges, Esq., his eldest son, of whom more hereafter, continued the Wraxall line.

2. Sir William Gorges, Knt., his second son, was a great naval commander, knighted before 1566, Vice-Admiral of the Fleet 1580. He was of Charlton Manor, in the Parish of Wraxall (sold after his death by his sons to their cousin, Edward Gorges of that place). He married in 1565 Winifred, daughter and heiress of Roger Budockshed of St. Budeaux,[31] co. Devon, in the church of which parish is a curious monument, restored 1876, to one of his descendants. He died and was buried in the Tower of London 1583, his widow in Bath Abbey Church 1599. His eldest son, Tristram Gorges, Esq., continued the St. Budeaux line; his second, Robert Gorges, was of Butcombe, an extra-parochial place between Cheddar and Rodney Stoke, and was grandfather of Thomas Gorges of Heavitree, John Gorges Governor of Londonderry, Robert Gorges, D.C.L., Secretary to Henry Cromwell [his descendants still live, in Ireland], and Ferdinando Gorges, a rich Barbados merchant, who founded a family[32] at Eye, co. Hereford,

[29] Arms of Poyntz: 'Barry of eight, or and gules.'

[30] In the Heralds' Visitations and in Collinson's Somerset, Sir Edward Gorges is represented as marrying first Mary, daughter of Sir John Newton, but this is conclusively disproved by the Rawlinson MSS. in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, B. No. 66, p. 89 b, and 75, p. 139, drawn up in the lifetime of his son, Sir Henry Newton, and dated 1586, where no such marriage is mentioned.

[31] Arms of Budockshed: 'Sable three fusils in fesse between three stags' faces argent.' She was first-cousin to Sir Walter Raleigh, their mothers being sisters.

[32] Richard Gorges of Eye Court was M.P. for Leominster, 1787; what was once Eye Court is now the vicarage house. There is a monument in the church bearing the ancient coat of the Gorges, and the Communion Plate was the gift of one of the family.

now extinct in the male line. His third son, Sir Arthur Gorges, K.B. 1597, was of Stanley House, Chelsea, a fine mansion which he erected, and married, first Douglas, daughter of Viscount Bindon, and secondly Lady Elizabeth, daughter of Henry Earl of Lincoln; he was a learned man and a distinguished naval officer in the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and James I. His monumental brass is at Chelsea,[33] where he died 1625, leaving issue.

3. Nicholas Gorges, Esq., the third son, styled 'of London,' was in the Navy, M.P. for Boston, co. Lincoln, 1585, and dying in 1594, was buried in S. Martin's, Ludgate, having married, first a daughter of Sir Gyles Poole, M.P. for co. Gloucester, and secondly Mary, daughter of Francis Southwell of Wyndham, co. Norfolk, Esq. [She remarried Sir Conyers Clifford and Sir Anthony St. Leger, and lies buried in S. Patrick's Church, Dublin]

4. William[34] Gorges, Esq., the fourth son, was of Alderton, Northants, and died 1589, having married Cicely, daughter of Thomas Sparchford, by whom he had a daughter, Frances, who married Sir Thomas Hazilrigge of Noseley Hall, co. Leicester, Bart. Upon his tomb in Alderton Church are an incised effigy in armour, and the quartered coats of his family.

5. Sir Thomas Gorges, the fifth son, was born at Wraxall 1536, and was a man of much dignity and importance, Groom of the Chamber to Queen Elizabeth, M P. for Downton, Wilts, 1586; knighted 1603. He married Helena, the beautiful daughter of Wolfangus Snachenberg, a Swedish nobleman. She came to the English Court in the suite of the Margrave of Baden and Cecilia his wife, daughter of Gustavus Vasa, King of Sweden, in 1565, and becoming a great favourite with Queen Elizabeth, was one of her maids of honour and chief mourner at her funeral.

[33] Monumental Brass Society, Vol. II. 329.

[34] It is quite certain that there were two Williams in this generation.

She married, first William Parr, Marquis of Northampton, brother of Queen Catherine Parr, and Lord Great Chamberlain to Edward VI.; and secondly Sir Thomas Gorges, who having purchased the manor of Longford, near Salisbury, and pulled down, at his wife's instigation, the ancient mansion of the Carvingtons, erected a magnificent, if somewhat eccentric triangular pile, on the plan of the castle of Wrainberg, built by Tycho Brayhe. So much was spent upon the building, that it would not have been completed but for the fortunate windfall of the hull of a Spanish galleon, wrecked near Hurst Castle, of which Sir Thomas happened to be Governor, granted to him, at his wife's request, by the Queen, and found to be laden with bars of silver and other treasure of great value.[35] Sir Thomas died in 1610, æt. 74; his wife in 1638, æt. 86. They lie buried beneath a stately canopied tomb,[36] upon which are their full-length effigies and a wealth of heraldic and other decoration, erected in 1635 by their eldest surviving son, created in 1620 Baron Gorges of Dundalk,[37] at the eastern end of Salisbury Cathedral. [Lord Gorges was succeeded about 1650 by his son Richard, second Baron, who died without issue in 1712.] They had two other sons and three daughters, the eldest of the latter the wife of Sir Hugh Smyth of Ashton Court, Knight, and afterwards of Sir Ferdinando Gorges. By her last will, 1635, the Marchioness left a bequest to the parish of Wraxall, for the purchase of land for the poor thereof. There is a full-length portrait of her at Ashton Court.

Jane, the eldest daughter of Sir Edward Gorges, married, first

[35] The castle was sold to Lord Coleraine in 1641; occupied as a garrison for King Charles I. in 1644; surrendered to Cromwell in 1645; and sold again in 1717 to Sir Edward Bouverie, the ancestor of the Earl of Radnor, its present possessor.

[36] The tomb and castle are figured in Hoare's Modern Wilts, Vol. III., Hundred of Cawden, p. 31, &c.

[37] At Woburn Abbey is a portrait painted on panel, dated 1597, æt. 37, with the motto, 'perdydos,' of Sir Edward Gorges, born 1560, created Baron Dundalk 1620–1, in a buff coat, with a gorget.

John Aysshe of Tickenham, Esq. [who died 1560], his second wife, and secondly Sir Robert Stafforde of Hanslope, co. Bucks, Knt., by whom she had issue. She was buried there, 1591. Elizabeth, the second daughter, married John Wake of Hartwell and Clevedon, Esq., and had issue. Her eldest son was father of Sir Baldwin Wake, first Baronet, and her youngest ancestor of Archbishop Wake of Canterbury. Mary, the third daughter, married John Morgan, Esq.

Edmund Gorges, Esq., the eldest son of Sir Edward Gorges, died in his father's lifetime, 1557–8, having married in 1531, Ann, daughter of Sir John Walshe of Little Sodbury, co. Gloucester, Knt., Champion to Henry VIII., seised of the manor of Birdcumbe held of the Earldom of Devon, and of that of Braunton-Gorges in that county in his own right. He had six sons, Edward, Robert, Henry, John, Francis, Samuel, of whom, with the exception of the eldest, Edward, who succeeded him, little is known; and five daughters, Mary, who married (the first of his five wives) James Perceval of Weston in Gordano, Esq., but had no issue; Alice, who married at Wraxall, 1569, Henry, son of Giles Dodington of Loxton, Esq., and had a large family, most of them baptised at Wraxall; Jane, who married Walter Crouch; Margaret, wife of the Rev. William Jones, B.C.L., Prebendary of Wells and Rector of Wraxall; and Anne, who, in 1574, was a party to the presentation of her brother-in-law to the rectory.[38]

XVIII. Edward Gorges, Esq., the eldest son of Edmund Gorges, was born about 1537, being 22 at his father's death. He married Cicely, daughter of William Lygon,[39] of Madresfield,

[38] Wells Episcopal Register, Harleian MSS. 6964, 6968.

[39] Arms of Lygon: 'Argent, 2 lions passant in pale gules.' Bigland's Gloucestershire, I. 571. Glouc. Visit. Harleian Soc., 50. A portion of the territory of New England within the State of Maine was styled by Sir Ferdinando Gorges 'Lygonia,' in honour of his mother.

co. Worcester, Esq., ancestor of Earl Beauchamp, and by her, who married secondly John Vivian, Esq., had issue two sons. He died in 1568, and was buried in the Church of St. James, Clerkenwell, seised of the manors of Sturminster Marshall, co. Dorset, held of the Queen in capite, and of Wraxall, Failand, Birdcombe, &c.

1. Edward Gorges, his son and heir, of whom presently, was æt. 4 at his father's death.[40]

2. His second son was the celebrated Sir Ferdinando Gorges, founder of the State of Maine in America. He was born in 1565, perhaps at Wraxall, or more probably at Clerkenwell, though his baptism is not recorded at either place.[41] He married four wives,[42] and had issue by the first, Ann, daughter of Edward Bell[43] of Writtle, co. Essex, Esq., whom he married in 1589 at St. Margaret's, Westminster, and who died in 1620, two sons, John and Robert, and two daughters, Ellen and Honoria, the last of whom died young. He married secondly, in 1621, Mary, daughter of Thomas Fulford of co. Devon, Esq., and relict of Thomas Achims of Pelint, co. Cornwall, Esq.: she died 1622; and thirdly, in 1627, at Ladock, co. Cornwall, Elizabeth, daughter of Tristam Gorges of St. Budeaux, Esq., and relict of Edward Courteney and of William Bligh, Esqs.—she died within a few weeks of her marriage. His fourth wife, married at Wraxall 1629, was Elizabeth Lady Smyth, daughter of Sir Thomas Gorges and the Marchioness of Northampton, and relict of Sir Hugh Smyth of Ashton Court. Sir Ferdinando is described as of Kintbury, in the Parish of St. Budeaux, which he held in right of

[40] Harleian MSS. Brit. Mus., 6063, Art. 26.

[41] The Registers of St. James, Clerkenwell, are imperfect at this date.

[42] Miscell. Genealog., &c. New Series, IV. 55.

[43] Arms of Bell: 'Ermine, on a chief sable, an escallop between two bells argent.'

his third wife already mentioned. Entering the army at an early age, he had obtained the rank of captain at the siege of Sluys in 1587, was a prisoner at Lisle in 1588, wounded at the siege of Paris 1589, and knighted at the siege of Rouen 1591. He was rewarded for his services by the post of Governor of the Fort at Plymouth, which he held for many years. An intimate and adherent of the Earl of Essex, he narrowly escaped implication in his rebellion and punishment, but was fortunately able to convince his judges, not only of his freedom from his patron's treasonable intentions, but of his own earnest endeavours to dissuade him from the designs for which, with five of his associates, he suffered death in 1601. Restored to his government at Plymouth, of which he had been temporarily deprived, he was led by an accidental circumstance to become a zealous promoter of the colonization of America. A certain Captain Waymouth, returning from a voyage for the discovery of the North-West passage, brought home with him five Red Indians whom he had captured. Three of these he delivered to Sir Ferdinando, who, taking them into his house and instructing them in the English language, obtained from them accurate information about their native country. Convinced of its advantages, he organized several expeditions for its colonization, and, after many futile attempts, continued through many years, at length obtained a Charter from the Crown in 1637, constituting him Lord Palatine of the Province of New England, now known as Maine.[44] His memory is held in much honour by the American people, and is perpetuated by many monuments, notably by a fortification in Portland Harbour, constructed in 1863, and bearing his name. Upon the breaking out of civil war in England, Sir Ferdinando warmly espoused the cause of the King, rallied his

[44] The grant was confirmed to his eldest son, John, who bequeathed it to his son, Ferdinando, from whom it passed to Massachusetts in 1677.

sons around him, and took up arms at Wells, his house at Bristol, known as 'The Great House,' upon the site of the ancient Friary of the Carmelites, now that of Colston's Hall, being occupied by the Royalist and invested by the Parliamentary troops.[45] But he did not live to see the end of the struggle, dying two years before his master at the Lower Court at Long Ashton, the dower-house of his fourth wife, in 1647. He lies buried in Long Ashton Church, without memorial inscription, presumably in the grave in which his wife was afterwards interred in 1658.[46] His eldest son, John, inherited his Province of Maine, of which Robert, his younger son, had been for a short time Governor. Born in 1593, he married first, in 1620, at St. James', Clerkenwell, the Lady Frances Fynes-Clinton, daughter of Theophilus Earl of Lincoln, and secondly Mary, daughter of Sir John Meade of Windon-Loftus, co. Essex, by the latter of whom he had issue, with there daughters, a son Ferdinando, who at his father's death in 1656 inherited his Province, and by his wife Mary, daughter of Thomas Archdale, had a son Ferdinando, who was of Ashley, Wilts, where he died 1737, the last male descendant of the founder of Maine. The subsequent history of the Province may be briefly stated. There were conflicts about its government, taking advantage of which, Massachusetts, extending its northern boundary, contrived to include within it a large portion of Maine, and purchasing the remainder from Ferdinando Gorges, the grandson of Sir Ferdinando, in 1677, terminated the interest of the family in those regions.

[45] Seyer's Bristol, II. 309, 404. Barrett's Bristol, 414. 'The Great House' was built by Sir John Young, who there entertained Queen Elizabeth in great state in August, 1576. It is figured in its original condition, and after its alteration for Colston's School, in 'Bristol: Past and Present,' Vol. III., pp. 120, 136.

[46] Memoir of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, by James Phinney Baxter, M.A., privately printed in Boston, U.S.A., for the Prince Society, 1890. 3 vols., 4to.

XIX. Sir Edward Gorges, his elder brother, was born 1564; baptized at Wraxall, September 5th. He married before 1590 Dorothy, daughter of Sir George Speke[47] of White Lackington, Somerset, Knt., by whom he had six sons and six daughters. He purchased Charlton manor in 1585 from his cousins, Tristram Gorges and his brothers, and other adjoining property in Wraxall and Portbury from the Berkeleys.[48] He was High Sheriff of Somerset 1608; and dying 1624 intestate, was buried at Wraxall.

XX. His eldest son, Sir Robert Gorges, succeeded, and married, 1616, Mary, daughter of Sir Marmaduke Darell[49] of Fulmer, Bucks, by whom he had two children who died in infancy, 1622–4. He married secondly, about 1631, Dorothy, daughter of Sir Robert Mellor[50] of Upcerne, Dorset, Knt., and relict of Sir Charles Vaughan of Fulleston, Wilts, Knt. [her will proved 1649: Som. Wills, VI. 50], by whom he had no issue. He died and was buried at Wraxall 1636.

2. His next brother, Samuel Gorges, inherited the estates, of whom presently.

3. The third brother, the Rev. Thomas Gorges, baptised at Wraxall 1602, was of Queen's College 1621, Fellow of All Soul's College 1629, Prebendary of Salisbury 1643. He married Frances, daughter of Walter Dayrell, brother of Sir Thomas Dayrell of Lillingston-Dayrell, Bucks, and relict of Robert Hovendèn of Stanton-Harcourt, Oxon, but had no issue. Chancing to be at Abbots Leigh, with his connections the Nortons in 1651, he recognised King Charles II., when in hiding there after the

[47] Arms of Speke: 'Argent, two bars azure, over all a double-headed eagle displayed gules.'

[48] Smith's Lives of the Berkeleys, p. 214.

[49] Arms of Darell: 'Azure a lion rampant or ducally crowned argent.'

[50] Arms of Mellor: 'Azure four mascles in cross or.'

battle of Worcester.[51] Archdeacon of Winchester 1660; D.D. 1661; Prebendary of Westminster the same year; Rector of Wraxall 1663. Died 1667; buried in Westminster Abbey.

Of the other brothers, Edward and Edmund died in infancy, and William, having been lieutenant to his uncle Sir Ferdinando, at Plymouth, was one of the settlers in New England 1635; but returning home, died and was buried at Wraxall 1658-9.

Of the sisters, Frances married John, second son of Andrew Luttrell of Hartland, co. Devon, Esq., and secondly Sir Edward Southcot of Bovey Tracy, Knt. Elizabeth married Francis, only son of William Trenchard of Cutteridge, Wilts, by Jane, daughter of Maurice Rodney of Rodney Stoke, Esq., and had issue. Dorothy married at Wraxall, 1603-4, William Carey of Clovelly, Esq. (his second wife), and had issue. She died 1622, and lies buried in Exeter Cathedral, where is a monument to her memory. 1613, Ann married at Wraxall Edward, second son of Edmund Tynte, Esq. He purchased from his brother-in-law, John Ayshe of Chelvey, Esq., that manor,[52] and lies buried with his wife in that church, leaving issue. The remaining daughters, Isabel or Elizabeth married John Ayshe of Chelvey aforesaid, and Dorothy[53] married Donne of Tutswell, near Barnstaple.

XXI. Samuel Gorges, Esq., second son and eventual heir of Sir Edward Gorges and Dorothy Speke, upon the death without issue of his eldest brother Sir Robert Gorges, was born about 1600, and married before 1639 Jane, daughter of John Cotterell of Winford, Somerset, Esq., and relict of George Allen, of Wrington, Gent. He was an ardent Royalist, and one of those

[51] Clarendon's History of the Rebellion. Eachard's History of England, Book II., p. 694.

[52] Monumental Inscription in Chelvey Church.

[53] There were certainly two Dorothys, and possibly two Elizabeths, in this generation. The Somerset Visitation of 1573 makes the second Dorothy unmarried. Weaver's Visit of Somerset, 26.

selected by King Charles II. in 1660 to be Knights of the Royal Oak, an Order never constituted. He had, with Jane his wife, license to eat flesh in Lent, 1666–7, on the score of illness.[54] He died 1671, his wife 1681–2; both buried at Wraxall. He had three sons, Edward, Samuel, and Ferdinando, of whom the second—

2. Samuel Gorges, Esq., born 1635; of the Inner Temple, 1665; was Justice of the Common Pleas in Ireland, 1684; married at Wells, 1669, (the marriage, entered in the Wraxall Register) Margaret, daughter of Sir Robert Poyntz of Iron Acton, Knt., and relict of Sir Richard Hastings, Bart., but had no issue. He died 1686, and was buried with his wife at Kilkenny.

3. The third, Ferdinando Gorges, was buried in the Gaunts' Church, St. Mark's, Bristol, 1649–50; and his only sister, Dorothy Gorges, at Wraxall in the same year.

XXII. Edward Gorges, Esq., the eldest son and heir of Samuel Gorges, Esq., was baptized at Wraxall, December 18th, 1631; married at Clapton-in-Gordano, September 22nd, 1653, Grace, daughter of William Winter of that place, Esq., by Bridget, daughter of Robert Halswell of Goathurst, Esq.; was of Gray's Inn, 1648; M.P. for Somerset, 1688; buried at Wraxall, September 8th, 1708,—his wife, September 11th, 1698. He was the last male heir of the Wraxall family, as his son Samuel died in his lifetime. His children were—Dorothy Gorges, baptized January 17th, 1655–6; Samuel Gorges, his son and heir; and another son, whose Christian name is unknown, but who was buried at Wraxall, October 30th, 1690, as 'Captain Gorges, son of Edward Gorges, Esq.'

Samuel Gorges, the younger, son and heir of Edward Gorges of Wraxall, Esq., was baptized there 1657. He married Elizabeth, whose surname I am unable to ascertain, and who died 1738, æt.

[54] Wraxall Registers, first book, blank leaf at the end.

71, leaving by Will a silver salver to Wraxall Church. He died 1693. They had an only daughter,—

XXIII. Elizabeth Gorges, baptized at Wraxall 1686; married there, 1709, Colonel John Codrington,[55] second son of Robert Codrington of Didmarton, co. Gloucester, Esq., by Agnes, daughter of Richard Samwell of Upton, co. Northampton. He was M.P. for Bath 1710 to 1734; and died 1754, his wife in 1740. Her gravestone, removed from the floor of the Sacrarium, has been built into the north wall of the churchyard adjoining, and bears the two coats of Gorges quarterly upon an inescutcheon of pretence. They had four daughters, of whom Elizabeth, Agnes and Rachel, dying young, were buried at Wraxall, while—

XXIV. Jane Codrington, the youngest, married, in 1742, Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde, Bart.,[56] M.P. for Devon, and had thirteen children. He died in 1776, and she in 1789. She lies buried in a vault, now filled up, beneath the chancel floor of Wraxall Church. Of their daughters, Gertrude married, 1768, Oldfield Bowles, Esq., of North Ashton, Oxon, patron of Wraxall 1781; Elizabeth married Colonel Gordon; and Charlotte married Abel Moysey, Esq., M.P. for Bath 1774–84, father of Archdeacon Moysey, and grandfather of Henry Gorges Moysey, Esq., of Bathealton Court, near Wellington.

XXV. Their second son, Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, Bart., succeeded, (his elder brother having died young), and resided at Wraxall in 1788. He was born in 1753, was M.P. for Exeter, and married, 1776, Catharine, daughter of Admiral Sir John Moore,[57] Bart., K.B., grandson of Charles fourth Earl of

[55] Arms of Codrington: Quarterly 1 and 4, 'Argent, a fesse embattled counterembattled sable, fretty gules, between 3 lioncels passant of the last: 2 and 3, Vert, on a bend argent 3 roses gules barbed of the first: in sinister chief a dexter hand of the second.'

[56] Arms of Bampfylde: 'Or, on a bend gules three mullets argent.'

[57] Arms of Moore: 'Azure, on a chief indented or, three mullets pierced gules.'

Drogheda. He was assassinated in Montague Square by one Morland, who afterwards committed suicide, in 1823, and left issue one son, George Warwick Bampfylde, born 1786, created Baron Poltimore 1831, father of the present peer.

Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, Bart., becoming bankrupt about 1800, his property was sold by order of the Court of Chancery, when the manors of Wraxall and Tickenham were purchased by Philip Protheroe, of Over Court, co. Gloucester, Esq., and by him transferred shortly afterwards to Sir Hugh Smyth, of Ashton Court, Bart., in whose family they still remain.

THE MANOR HOUSE.

It is not unlikely that the original manor house of the Gorges family may have occupied a position somewhat higher than that of the existing 'Court,' and nearer to the church, where buried foundations and inequalities of level support the conjecture; and that it was removed to afford material for the present mansion, built in a more sheltered spot, in the depression formed by one of the numerous small combes which descend from the hills towards the south. The stone entrance-porch, with semi-circular doorway flanked with Ionic columns, bears the date 1658, and the initials S. G., being those of Samuel Gorges, Esq., the then lord of the manor, who in his last will, 1666, speaks of "my new dwelling-house lately built in the parish of Wraxall." Its singular situation embedded in the bank is sufficiently described in a MS. Latin poem, entitled 'Venatio,'[58] written for and dedicated to Colonel John Codrington, its succeeding proprietor, who, as

[58] 'Venatio,' a Latin poem, describing at length, in hexameters, the chase of hares, foxes, and stags by Colonel John Codrington's hounds, by S. H., in the possession of Thomas Codrington, Esqre.

already stated, had married the heiress of the Gorges, and though seated at Dodington, Co. Gloucester, made this his favourite hunting box, 1710—1750 :—

> "Haud procul hinc inter colles nitidissimus exstat
> Nidulus in clivum, tuus o ! labor, inclyte Gorgi,
> Nunc Codringtoni venatu accommoda sedes."

This was written when the house, though doubtless commodious, was much smaller than at present, and before the addition of the spacious bay-windowed entertaining rooms and bedrooms over them added to either side of the earlier front by Thomas Upton, Esq., father of Sir John Henry Greville Smyth, the present owner, and lord of the manor. Of no distinctive architectural character, its ground plan may perhaps have been that of a hollow square, the vacant centre subsequently utilized by Mr. Upton for the handsome staircase erected within it and lighted from above. As entered from the South, the house is on ascending levels, is furnished with spacious offices and stabling, large stone-walled vegetable gardens with glass houses stretching up the slope behind. Its surroundings are picturesque, and the park in which it stands, though small in extent, is of much variety and beauty. Mr. Hallam, the historian, was amongst its tenants.

The most important residential property in the parish, the princely domain of Tyntesfield, will be described hereafter.

OTHER GENTLEMEN'S SEATS.

The modern residence known as Wraxall House lies upon the stream, which, traversing the valley from east to west, is nameless in its earlier course, but is afterwards merged in the generic 'Yeo.' Casting about for a clue to its possible history, I am

inclined to think it may have been the site of the ancient mansion of the important family of Waleys or Wallisch, for in the will of Edward Tynte, of Chelvey, Esq., 1629,[59] he bequeaths to his younger sons, Robert and Hugh, "all such lands in Wraxall as do lie in the Field, and about Mr. Wales' house, and such as lie below the Field." This last designation is used elsewhere to describe the large area of then unenclosed flat country at the lowest level of the parish. The existing house, with southern aspect and unusually large sash windows, has been altered on several occasions, its central and oldest portion containing the hall, staircase, and a panelled room on the first floor. The property of Mr. Thomas Gee, of Bristol, it passed to his daughter's husband, Mr. James Edward Homer, who built the drawing-room and adjoining wing, and died in 1856, his wife in 1859, after which it was sold to Mr. J. L. Jenkins, and by his executors to Mr. William Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, who retaining the land, alienated the house and curtilage to Mr. Beadel Low, its present owner. Amongst its previous occupiers was William Barrett, the historian of Bristol, the preface to whose work is dated hence in April, 1789.

FAMILY OF WALEYS.

Of the family of Wale, Waleys, or Wallisch, which seems to have been important, and of the dwelling-place called after their name, we have early mention :—

1225. Ewales de Wrokeshal occurs.[60]

1252-3. Finalis Concordia between Mathew de Columbers and Matilda his wife, querents, and Robert de Burton, impedient, by Gregory de Waleys in his place for two

[59] Rev. Fredk. Brown's Somerset Wills, VI. 89.

[60] Somerset Pleas. Som. Rec. Soc., XI., Nos. 358, 367, 383, p 101.

carucates of land in Buryton, and a marc of rent in Barne.[61]

1300-1. Between William de la Forde and John de Lockynge, querents, and John Wale of Wroxhale, impedient, for a messuage, a ferling and a virgate of land, and 11s. rent in Wroxhale for their three lives.[62]

1302-3. Between Nicholas, son of Ralph de Hull, and Matilda his wife, querents, and Adam de Waleys deforciant, for the manor of Tykenham.[63]

1329-30 Between Walter Waleys, querent, and Ralph de Gorges and Elizabeth his wife, deforciants, for the manors of Wroxhale and Flex-Boryton juxta Wroxhale, and for the advowson of the Church of Wroxhale, except a messuage and a carucate of land in the same manor. Walter granted to them the above with reversions to William son of Theobald Russell and his heirs, to Theobald Russell his brother and his heirs, to John his brother and his heirs, to Richard his brother and his heirs, then to the heirs of Ralph.[64]

1340-1. Between Walter Waleys, querent, and Richard de Borytone and Agnes his wife, deforciants, for ten acres of land and four acres of pasture in Cherleton juxta Portbury. Richard and Agnes quit-claimed to Walter for £10 sterling.[65]

1404. Oct. 6. Robert Tynte of Wraxall grants to John Wale and his son land and reversions in Wales Place, Portbury, and Easton in Gordano.

[61] Somerset Fines Som. Rec. Soc., VI. 155.
[62] Idem, VI. 314-15.
[63] Idem, VI. 321.
[64] Idem, XII. 146-7.
[65] Idem, XII. 211.

In the same year John Bount, burgess of Bristol, bequeaths to Walter Wale of Wraxall and his heirs all testator's land at Cokelesford in Wraxall.[66]

1545. Alice Graunt of Yatton by her Will, proved by Thomas Wale, leaves bequests to Richard Wale of Yatton, Thomas Wale the younger, and Ursula wife of Thomas Wale.[67]

1592. Christopher Wale of Yatton, gent., mentions his tenements in Wraxall, his brothers Thomas Wale and Owen Wale of Wraxall, his wife Susan (*née* Best), his daughter Mary, his sisters Elizabeth Fisher and Dorothy Quicke.[68]

1623. His brother, Thomas Wale of Yatton, had a daughter Susan, who married William Blanchard of St. Catherine's Court, Batheaston.[69] Will 1631.

His brother, Owen Wale of Wraxall, married Anne, daughter of the Rev. William Jones, LL.B., Rector, by Margaret, his wife, daughter of Edmund Gorges, Esqre.[70]

1630. William Wale was presented to the Rectory of Weston in Gordano.[71]

1653. Christopher Jones of Congresbury, presumably the brother of Anne, mentions in his Will his cousin William Wale and William his son.[72]

1670. Richard Bagnall of Wraxall mentions in his Will his sister, Ann Wale, and leaves his residence to his mother, Mary, wife of William Wale.[73]

[66] Strachey Papers. Add. MSS. Brit. Mus. Bristol Wills, 74.
[67] Somerset Wills, III. 116.
[68] Do., II. 90.
[69] Visitation of Somerset, Harleian Soc. 9. Somerset Wills, IV. 53.
[70] Do., Harleian Soc. 63.
[71] Collinson's Somerset, III. 175.
[72] Somerset Wills, III. 69.
[73] Do., IV. 72.

1705. Eleanor, wife of Richard Glanville of Tickenham, leaves an annuity of £10 to William Wale.[74]

The foregoing entries have reference to the immediate neighbourhood. At a greater distance we find:

1288–9. Sire Jehan de Walleys one of men of mark in Somerset.[75]

1313–14. Adam le Wallish held the manor of Langridge, near Bath, and built the manor house: his family continuing there for many generations. There are brasses in the church there to Robert Wallshe, 1427, and Elizabeth Wallshe, 1441.[76]

1297–8. John le Waleys, lord of the manor of Hutton, which he held of the Clares, Earls of Gloucester.

1327–8. His seal was 'Ermine, a bend gules.'[77]

1349–50. Philip de Walleis holds the fourth part of a Knight's fee at Beechenstoke in Nemnet.[78]

1422–3. Robert de Coker of Bower, Sheriff of Somerset and Dorset, 1 Henry VI., married the d. & h. of John Walleys of Worle.[79]

They owned the manor of Woollavington, and were sometimes called by that name.[80]

There is a manor in the parish of Chew Stoke called Walley.

[74] Do., V. 9.
[75] Collinson's Somerset, I. 50.
[76] Do., I. 132.
[77] Do., III. 590.
[78] Do., II. 319.
[79] Do., II. 344.
[80] Do., III. 438.

WRAXALL COURT.

From a Photograph by C. O. MASTER, Esq.

BIRDCOMBE COURT.

From a Photograph by Rev. W. A. WOODWARD.

WHELPES PLACE.

Another notable homestead, which is described as an ancient messuage as early as 1410-11, at which date it was conveyed by deed, preserved among the muniments at Tyntesfield, by Thomas Lord of Berkeley, to John Tynte and Alice his wife, was 'Whelpes Place,' traditionally located on the stream at a point lying South of the Church, now known as 'The Kennels,' and so employed for the pack of hounds kept here by Colonel John Codrington in 1720-40. Nothing remains of the mansion and its curtilages, but it was approached from the high road by a noble avenue of elms, of which 'the Cross Tree,' near the lych-gate, was one, and another stands in the first hedgerow, in what is still styled 'Stumps or Stubbs Park.' In the adjoining lowlying meadows coverts have been planted, extending over the boundary of Wraxall into that of Backwell.

A charmingly situated small residence, the property of Mr. Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, on high ground on the edge of his park and backed by a wood, is known as Wraxall Cottage, and enjoys a splendid prospect.

BIRDCOMBE.

On the edge of the Parish towards the west, underlying its wooded slopes, is the picturesque 'Tower House' or Birdcombe Court, an ancient manor, formerly held under the Courtenayes, Earls of Devon, by the notable Somerset family, styled variously Bythemore,[81] Delamore, and Attemore. Whether the territorial

[81] Arms of Bythemore: 'Barry, arg. and az., on a chevron gu, 3 mullet of the first.'

Lords ever resided at the Court may be doubtful; but in the list of Exchequer Lay Subsidies, 1327-8, Hugo de Courtenaye[82] is, as already mentioned, by far the largest contributor in the Parish of Wraxall, the names of Atte Moore and Bythemore being included therein; and the occurrence upon one of the bosses of the groined roof of the tower-porch of the manor house of the bristled boars, which are the supporters of the arms of Courtenaye, is a reminder of their ownership, if not of their occupation.

A long genealogical history of the Bythemores, tracing the descent from them, through the Percevals, of the Earls of Egmont, is to be found in 'Anderson's House of Yvery,' a rare Somerset book of much research, and privately printed.

Their estates at Wraxall are specially mentioned in cotemporary Rolls and Inquisitions, as early as the 6th of King John (1205), and from thence until about 1500, when they became merged in the family of Perceval.

There is an entry in the Diocesan Registers at Wells, under date 1331, showing that one of the name was then resident at Birdcombe, and indicating the jealousy with which the rights of the Bishop and Rector of Wraxall were safeguarded. The application was a sufficiently modest one: "1331. Sept. 1.—Licentia concessa Johanni Attemore de Bredecombe, quod possit erigere Tabulam ligneam infra Mansum suum predictum, et, posito super altari,[83] Divina absque prejud: ecclesie parochialis de Wraxhall facere celebrari per 1 annum."

'Bridcombe' is again mentioned in 1437 as then settled, with other property, upon John More, for so was the name contracted, and Alice his wife.[84]

[82] Arms of Courtenay—'or, 3 torteaux, 2 and 1.'

[83] The super-altar was a small portable consecrated stone, without which no priest could celebrate.

[84] House of Yvery, II. 34.

The extravagance of David Perceval, who had married the heiress of the Bythemores, and succeeded in her right to the property, may perhaps account for its sale about 1500 to Sir Edmund Gorges, of Wraxall, Knt.

By his will, 1511, he bequeathed to his second son, William Gorges, "the manor of Birdcombe, with all its appurtenances lying in Wraxhale, Naylsee, Tykenham, and Portished, and also the Hole House and the Mogge House with all their appurtenances lying in Tykenham Parish to the foresaid William Gorges and his heyres in fee for ever."

This William was knighted, and residing here when Leland visited the place in 1540, or thereabouts, was the person thus mentioned in his Itinerary: "Wrokeshale is a three miles from Wyke (Court de Wyk) towards Brightstow. Here hath Syr William Gorge a meane (perhaps moderate sized) old maner place in a valley, and on eche side of it on the hills is a fayre parke."

He may have died unmarried, and the property have reverted to the elder branch, for in 1568 Edward Gorges of Wraxall, Esq., bequeathed to his younger son Ferdinando, then aged four (afterwards the celebrated Sir Ferdinando, Founder of the State of Maine), "my manor of Birdcombe with appurtenances, to have and to hold to him and his assigns during twenty four years, if he so long shall live."

At the expiration of this term Sir Edward Gorges, Knt., Sir Ferdinando's elder brother, alienated it to William Vawer[85] of Bristol, merchant, the title deeds, which are in the possession of Mr. Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, bearing date 1589-92-96. William Vawer died 1620, seized of the manor of Birdcombe or Burdcombe

[85] Arms of Vawer, "Sab. a spear-head between 3 scaling ladders arg: on a chief gu. a tower triple-towered of the second."—Visitation of Somerset, 1559. Harleian MSS. f 79 b.

with all privileges and belongings, and bequeathed them to his grandson William, whose father Thomas Vawer had predeceased testator, adding the following explanatory statement:[86] "If there come any extent (*i.e.* execution) against my manor of Birdcumbe, for any debt of Sir William Gorges thereon, there is a confession by Mr. Popham, the late Queen's Attorney, which is amongst my writings, and which will avoid all extents, and is in three leaves of paper, and was recorded in the Exchequer in the 32nd year of the Queen's reign, and is contayned in the 278 rowle. I have devised unto my son James Vawer by learned Counsel in the Lawe the Chappel on the bridge of Bristol. There is a statute among my writings of Sir Edward Gorges of Wraxall of £1000 for the warraunty of one moiety of Birdcumbe, and a bond of Sir Edward Gorges of London of £1000 for the warrauntye of the other moiety of Birdcumbe."

Passing over a generation or two, another William Vawer of Birdcombe Court, Wraxall, gent., by his will, 1748, bequeathed the manor to his beloved and only child, Elizabeth Vawer, who proved the will 1750 as Elizabeth Hollester.[87]

The property afterwards passed to W. P. Brigstocke, Esq., M.P. for Somerset, and from him was purchased by Sir Greville Smyth of Ashton Court, Bart , its present possessor.

The only attractive feature of the manor house is its tower on the East, which is of three stories, and supported upon four arches, the western one pierced with an entrance doorway, the lower portion forming an entrance porch. The stone groined roof of this furnishes some indication of the probable date of the house, of which the interior is so hopelessly modernised that its original ground plan has disappeared. It contains, however, some old timber beams,

[86] Somerset Wills, IV. 50.

[87] Somerset Wills, IV. 50–51. Somerset Arch. and Nat. Hist. Soc. Journal, XXVII. 37–42.

those probably of the great hall, and in its southern attics the relics of an open roof. Two female heads in the corners of the groining above-mentioned are of the latter part of the 15th century,—judging by their costume, which is identical with that of some of the corbels in the nave of Wraxall Church; the bosses are fanciful rather than heraldic,—one of them, however, bearing a heart-shaped shield with the boars of Courtenay as supporters, another three bars, another the emblem of the Holy Trinity, two triangles interlaced; while the central one is a meleé of two swans with two necks, the latter much twisted, and gorged with a chain in the form of a fret. The south side of the house is of early date, and is heavily buttressed. It may have contained the chapel. Original pointed doorways facing the entrance formed the communication with the offices, which under a separate and lower roof are now in use as a farm house, and are distinct from the mansion. A quantity of human bones were disinterred on the north side of the house, about 1837, by the then tenant, C. L. Coathupe, Esq., in laying the foundation of additional rooms. They were supposed to be the remains of the victims of a skirmish.

But the most interesting discovery connected with this locality was one made by the same gentleman in the year already mentioned, when, about fifty yards to the north of his residence, about a foot below the surface of the ground, and within a few inches of the underlying limestone rock, he found buried a massive bronze Torque, 3 lbs. and 10 oz. in weight, which has at length found a safe and appropriate receptacle in the Bristol Museum.[88]

Its normal size and weight, as well as its form and ornamentation, point to its Celtic rather than Roman origin. It consists of two precisely similar halves, connected by upper and lower joints.

[88] Described and figured in Archæologia, Vol. LIV., and in Proceedings of the Clifton Antiquarian Club, 1894-5.

A slightly V-shaped opening in the first enables the two halves to be pulled asunder at the second. This lower joint is in the form of a dowel, the square pin and hollow being nicely adjusted, fitting tightly, and closing, upon pressure, with a sharp click. The ornamentation consists of a series of connected scrolls in relief, dividing the circle into four sections, the divisions between them additionally ornamented. Within the scrolls are perforations, intended perhaps to receive precious stones or glass imitations, being of the nature of settings for jewels or enamels graduated from front to base. On either side of the scroll pattern is a minutely serrated edging. The Torque is about 6 ins. in diameter in its inner circle. Its material is mixed metal, of copper, and lead or zinc. No other relic of antiquity was found near it. It is noticed in Vol. XXX., p. 521, of the Archæologia of the Society of Antiquaries, where it is recorded that on Feb. 3, 1842 a cast of it was exhibited by Canon Ellacombe of Bitton. And it is described but not figured by Sir John Evans in his "Ancient Bronze Implements, Weapons, and Ornaments." It is remarkably clean and in perfect preservation.

It is singular that Collinson, in his History of the County, omits all mention of Birdcombe in the Parish of Wraxall.

NAISH.

In a position of exceptional beauty upon the western edge of the parish, overlooking, as a watch-tower, one of the grandest views in the county, including, besides the rich Gordano valley with its villages of Walton, Weston, Clapton, Portishead, and Portbury, the broad sweep of the Bristol Channel, Avonmouth, the range of the Welsh mountains, and the rich woodlands of Gloucestershire to the Cotswold, the Severn, and the Wye, stands

Naish House, a mansion of considerable size and importance, deriving its name from a former forgotten owner or occupier, of whom we have evidence in the occurrence of 'Johannes Atte Nasch' in the Exchequer Lay Subsidies of 1327–8. In the Latin poem called 'Venatio' its advantages of situation are thus described:

> En! hic Nashea superbit,
> Læta novo moles domino, Kemmistica nuper.
> Marmoreo pandit sese Sabrina decore
> Turgentes instrata rates binam insulam amæna.
> En! sinus inflatus velorum! En stupea scala
> In cælum tendens, malis affixa superbis!
> Regiviæ tandem stationi appulsa carina
> Littus init prœgnans, gazasque effundit eoas.[89]

In 1634–5 this property, comprising sixty acres of meadow, was, with the adjoining manor and advowson of Clapton, conveyed to Henry Halswell, in consideration of a marriage between William Winter, its previous owner, and Bridget, daughter of Robert Halswell.[90] At this date the house was rebuilt upon the site of an older one, and in 1687 passed to the Kemys family, between whom and the Rector there was a tithe dispute in 1696, when it was shown that the house stood in the parish of Wraxall, while its dairy and barn were in that of Clapton.[91] Miss Mary Kemys by her Will, 1701, bequeathed to her sister, Anne Kemys, "all my mansion house of Naish, and lands in Clapton and Wraxall."[92] Miss Anne Kemys died in 1708, leaving all her lands to her nephew, Sir Charles Kemys, Bart. About 1740 Naish had become the property and residence of Walter King, Esq., whose death in 1792, and that of his wife Mary in 1787, are recorded

[89] These lines require some explanation. At the time they were written, 1742, the property had just passed from the Kemys family to Walter King, Esq., who was its 'novus dominus.' 'Sabrina' is the Severn, 'bina insula' the Holmes, 'regivia statio' Kingroad.

[90] Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd series, XII. 467, 473.

[91] Som. Archæol. Soc. Proceedings, XXVII. 1, 57; Collinson's Somerset, III. 179.

[92] Somerset. Wills, II. 16.

upon a tablet in the Church. Among his tenants was Philip John Miles, Esq., M.P. for Bristol, living here while building Leigh Court, who added to the house a dining-room and bedrooms over it. Then it was purchased by James Adam Gordon of Knockespock, near Aberdeen, and of Moor Place and Stocks, near Tring in the county of Herts, Esq., the owner of large estates in the adjoining Gordano valley. A man of great culture and ability, he was in early life private secretary to his uncle, Mr. Whitbread, M.P., and to George Canning. He married Emma Katherine, daughter of Admiral Wolley, but by her (who re-married Richard Bright, Esq., M.P. for East Somerset, and died 1890) had no issue. His heir was his cousin, Sir William Abdy, upon whose death Naish was again sold to Lieut.-Colonel Pilgrim, who died there, from whose devisees it passed in 1872 to Sir Greville Smyth, Bart., its present owner. It has been occupied by Colonel Lushington (who placed the carved oak mantelpiece in the dining-room, then the entrance hall), Sir Walter Morgan, Chief Justice of Madras, Sir John Strachey, member of H.M. Indian Council, and others, as tenants, and is now in the holding of W. H. Spencer, Esq., who has here a school, in an ideal position, for little boys.

The house, originally a large square block, with a frontage to the west of three stories of large and heavily framed sash windows and an entrance in the centre, has very thick walls, and has undergone many alterations. The ground-floor rooms are of unusual height; the drawing-room, now divided, occupied the first floor, and was lighted by five windows. Mr. Gordon appended, in the florid Gothic of his day, an entrance tower on the east,[93] and a

[93] Built into the entrance tower is a well-carved stone shield, a similar one lying on the ground beneath the western wall. Quarterly 1 and 4, 'Azure, on a fesse chequy argent and gules, between 3 boars' heads erased close, or,' a lion passant sable Gordon. 2 and 3, 'Argent, a saltire gules on a chief of the last 3 boars' heads couped of the first,' Lavington: impaling Quarterly 1 and 4, 'Argent, upon a chevron ermines an eagle displayed or,' Wolley; 2 and 3, 'Or, a cross patonce sable,' Lamplugh.

conservatory on the south, handsomely built of hewn stone, besides various external additions, with a result which is hardly satisfactory. The turret staircase, communicating with every story, furnishes an admirable if unintended fire-escape. The main staircase is of handsome old mahogany. The attics were added by Colonel Pilgrim. There are two large walled kitchen gardens, and some small remains of a building near the house, conjectured, but with small probability, to have been a domestic chapel. Upon a pedestal near the house stands a life-size crowned figure of King John, with Magna Charta at his feet, and a falcon perched upon his left wrist feeding from a horn in his right hand. It is said to have been sculptured from Mendip stone by Mr. Gordon's order as a gift to the Corporation of Bristol, by whom it was declined. Pleasant woods adjoin the house on both sides, while a zig-zag carriage drive carried through the grounds affords much-needed access to the valley beneath, the public approaches to which are long and very steep.

The main interest of the place centres around the two maiden ladies already mentioned, Mary and Anne Kemys, daughters of Sir Charles Kemys, of Cefn Mabley, Bart., who received here in "retreat" the saintly Ken, deprived Bishop of Bath and Wells, whose biographer Anderdon thus alludes to them :—[94]

"One of the happy asylums to which Ken loved to resort as a retirement into the desert out of the noise and hurry of the world, was Naish House, near Portishead, some six miles from Bristol. There two maiden ladies dwelt of the name of Kemys, who reverenced him for his great piety and charity. He was a sort of ghostly father to them, exercising all the holy charitable offices flowing from the Communion of Saints, and especially in fervent intercession with God on behalf of the poor harassed and afflicted

[94] Life of Ken, by a layman, p. 750.

clergy and others. His letters make frequent mention of these good virgins, in whose religious society he spent much of his time, especially in winter and during Lent. He calls the house 'a kind of nunnery where I usually abide in my Lord Weymouth's absence.' His reason for being there at Christmas was to make a retreat from the festivities of a palace (Longleat) open to all comers of fashion and quality. His friend, Dr. Smith, compares him to St. Hierome conversing with the devout ladies of Bethlehem, instructing and confirming their faith, and directing their consciences in the matter of true spiritual life, and influencing their souls with seraphic notions of God and of Christ, and of the other world, especially by the most convincing evidence and demonstration of example. He speaks of this private seat of the good ladies as having a better pretence to the title of a religious house than those so-called Popish countries, where superstition, opinion of merit, and forced vows take off very much from the pure spirit of devotion, and render their restraint tedious and irksome. But these good ladies are happy under your conduct, and are by an uninterrupted course of piety elevated above all the gaudy pomps and vanities of the world, and enjoy all the comforts and satisfactions and serenity to be wished for and obtained on this side of heaven, in their solitude."

This is all we can learn of Naish and its inmates. It is to be regretted that Ken did not give a more detailed account of them. In the Will of Anne Kemys, 1708, she leaves "To my honoured and respected friend, Dr. Ken, the deprived Bishop of Bath and Wells, £100, which I humbly entreat him to accept as a small token of the great duty and affection which my sister and I bore him;" and again, "to my much honoured the late deprived Bishop of Bath and Wells £200, to be distributed by him among the deprived and non jurant clergy; 5s. to as many poor women as I am years old.

After legacies are paid, £100 more to Dr. Ken, and £100 more among the deprived clergy." [95]

In the Kemys Chapel, Michaelstone, co. Monmouth, there is this inscription:

"Mary, Anne, Kemys, sisters, who both chose
The better part, wise virgins, here repose.
Mary first crowned, Anne languish'd till posses't
Of the same grave, of the same mansion blest."

Mary	55		Oct. 5	
aged		dyed		1708
Anne	57		Dec.	

by their friend."

There are vestiges of a circular castrum on the brow of a hil opposite Naish House.[96]

MOAT HOUSE.

In search of localities for the residences of the several important families known to have sprung from this parish, it is impossible to avoid the inference that one of them was here. Occupying a depression in the high ground on the North-West, in a lonely but sheltered position, concealed from observation, midway between Charlton and Naish, was an ancient moated homestead, once of much greater importance than at present. Standing upon a raised plateau, protected by a deep square moat, its inner sides

[95] These ladies were the daughters of Sir Charles Kemys, of Cefn Mabley, 2nd Baronet, by Margaret, his second wife, daughter of Sir George Whitmore, and were grand-daughters of Sir Nicholas Kemys, 1st Baronet, the Samson of his day, who being challenged to try a fall with a noted Cornish wrestler, threw him over the park wall and then threw his ass after him. In 1648 he captured Chepstow Castle for King Charles I., which was at length reduced by famine by the Parliamentary Army, when Sir Nicholas and 48 men were slain in cold blood, and 120 prisoners were taken.—*Taylors' Antiquarian Essays*, pp. 271-2.

[96] Barrett's Hist. of Bristol, p. 20.

faced with masonry, it was approached from the South over a wooden drawbridge, superseded about 1830 by a stone bridge, upon the corners of which an outlined shield bore date 1648, and the Roman capitals B and D, the former the probable initial of 'Bullocke,' at that time its owner. A paved causeway led to the porch, giving access to a central passage with oak-panelled parlour and kitchen on either side, an oaken newel staircase, rising from one of stone to the cellar, communicating with two stories of chambers above. Its walls were and are three feet in thickness, but almost all features of interest have been destroyed, the moat filled up, the gables removed, the whole house modernised within and without. A sundial has the date 1658. Of its earlier history there are no records. Mr. George Gibbs has obligingly examined his father's deeds, and tells me that the lands include those formerly known as Upper Portbury, Whitewood's, Cable's, and Godwyn's parks, the latter name, that of the first lay grantee of the dissolved priory of Portbury, pointing to an earlier ecclesiastical ownership. For several generations the property of the Bullockes, it passed to Edward Stokes, and from him to William Cambridge, his daughter Mary leaving it to her cousin, also William Cambridge, whose daughter, another Mary, married John Seager Winter, and they sold it to William Gibbs of Tyntesfield, Esq.

CHARLTON.

This place, one of the 'members' or 'hamlets' of the manor of Wraxall, was not in itself a manor until, subsequently severed from its head, it came to be so styled.

It is mentioned as early as 1316, in which year Sir Rauf de Gorges, summoned to military service against the Scots, is certified

CHARLTON HOUSE, CIRCA 1600.

From an old Map in the possession of Antony Gibbs, Esq.

CHARLTON HOUSE.

From a Photograph by Rev. W. A. Woodward.

by the Sheriff to be lord, inter alia, of 'Wraxall, with the hamlets of Charlton, Bourton, and Nailsea.'[97]

In 1340 there was a 'finalis condordia' between Walter Waleys and Richard de Borytone and Agnes his wife for ten acres of land and four of pasture 'in Cherleton juxta Portbury.'[98]

In 1398–9 Thomas, fourth of that name Lord Berkeley purchased from Thomas Norton an ancient messuage called Whelps-place and divers other land in 'Wraxell, whereby hee further inlarged his manor of Portbury.'[99]

In 1400–1 he purchased from the King free warren in his manors of Walton, Weston, Portshead, and 'Charleton' in the co. of Somerset.[99]

So it would appear that Charlton, part of the manor of Wraxall at the beginning of the 14th century, and then the property of Sir Rauf de Gorges, had, before its close, passed to Thomas Lord Berkeley as an appendage to his adjoining manor of Portbury. When or how it reverted to the Gorges family is uncertain. It may have been when the extravagant Sir William Berkeley, afterwards Marquess, living at Portbury vitâ patris 1459–60, and charged by his father on no account to alienate any portion of that manor, is recorded nevertheless to have done so.[100]

At all events, about 1550 it was the property and residence of Sir William Gorges, second son of Sir Edward of Wraxall, a distinguished naval commander, Vice-Admiral of the Fleet in 1580, died 1583.

In 1556–7 Henry Lord Berkeley devised to Edward Gorges,

[97] Somerset Record Soc., III. 63.

[98] Somerset Fines. Somerset Record Soc., XII. 210.

[99] Smyth's Lives of the Berkeleys, II. 14, 397. Collinson's Somerset, III. 144.

[100] Ditto II. 76.

Esq., then unmarried, his servant, "all his park of Portbury, 74 acres, then divided into three parts, of which the third part, called the Nether Park, was 30 acres, for 60 years."

In 1585 Edward Gorges, then Sir Edward, purchased Charlton from Tristram and Robert Gorges, sons of his uncle, Sir William aforesaid,[101] and in 1597, from the Berkeleys, 'the higher and nether parks,' of which he had a previous lease, and 'Fluellin farm' adjoining.[99] He resided here till his death, in 1624, his widow remarrying in 1638.[102] The armorial achievement over the fireplace in the hall, recently restored, was erected by him: 'Quarterly Gorges, Russell, Oldhall, and Englowes,' as in the Church, impaling the coat of his wife, daughter of Sir George Speke, 'Argent, two bars azure, over all a double eagle displayed gules.' Here he received his distinguished brother, Sir Ferdinando Gorges, founder of the State of Maine, when, in temporary disgrace from supposed complicity with the rebellion of Essex, he needed shelter and concealment.

Re-attached to the manor of Wraxall, Charlton passed therewith to Sir Edward's eldest son, Sir Robert Gorges, and at his death without issue in 1636, to his next brother, Samuel, who was seised of it in 1646.[103] In his will, 1666, no mention being made of Charlton, he described himself as 'of Wraxall, Esq^re.,' appointed his son Edward his executor, "to whom I give all my plate, jewels, and personal estate now in my new dwelling house lately built in the parish of Wraxall." This could hardly have referred to Charlton, but must have been meant for Wraxall Lodge, now called Wraxall Court, the entrance porch of which bears his initials S.G., and the date 1658.

[101] At the time of this purchase Charlton was in the occupation of Robert James and Joan, his wife. The purchase money for the parks was £1,400.

[102] Inq. p.m. on the death of her son, Sir Robert Gorges.

[103] Royalist Composition Papers, 2nd Series, VII. 637—666.

Edward Gorges added to the Charlton property in 1670 Prior's Wood, a portion of the ancient monastic estate, by purchase from John Digby, son of George Earl of Bristol; but being probably satisfied with his residence at Wraxall, conveyed Charlton, in 1694, to Robert Yate, of Bristol, Sheriff of that city in 1685 and Mayor in 1693. He died in 1736, leaving it by will to his nephews, John Day and Peter and Henry Muggleworth; the last was Mayor of Bristol in 1758. Becoming vested in the latter, it passed under his will, in 1782, to Peter Goodwin, his nephew, son of his sister Ann, with remainder to sons and daughters in succession, and failing them to Thomas Kington, who married his niece Susanna, daughter of his sister Ann.

It would be interesting to be able to connect the Goodwins, of whom there are many entries in the Wraxall Registers, and of whom an important branch was settled at Nailsea, with Robert Goodwyne, to whom in 1542–3 King Henry VIII. granted the adjoining manor of Portbury Priors and the grange there, belonging to the dissolved monastery of Breamore in Hants, and who died seised thereof in 1558. But there does not seem to have been any connection between them. Robert Goodwyn left an only daughter and heir, Margaret, who married John Wake, of Clevedon, Esq., who died 1621. Their son, Sir Baldwin Wake, first baronet 1621, married Abigail, daughter of Sir Robert Digby, and sister of the first Earl of Bristol. That he inherited some interest in this property is clear from the conveyance of Priors Wood by his son, John Digby, to Edward Gorges in 1670.

In 1791 this same wood is mentioned as belonging to Henry Goodwin, of Charlton, Esquire, whose manorial residence was there.[104]

[104] Collinson, III. 155.

Thomas Kington, his successor, the first owner of Charlton of his name, was born in 1771, and died in 1827, having married Charlotte, daughter of William Miles [by Ann his wife, daughter of John Berrow, Mayor of Bristol 1743], and had nine children, five of whom are recorded on monumental tablets in Wraxall Church, as are also his wife and himself.

His eldest son, Thomas Kington (born 1795, died 1857), married Margaret, daughter of Laurence Oliphant, of Gask, heir male of Francis, tenth and last Baron Oliphant, and had issue five children, of whom the eldest son,

Thomas Laurence Kington, born 1831, assumed the additional surname of Oliphant in 1864, married Frances Dorothy, daughter of Henry Jebb, of Boston, co. Linc., but had no issue.

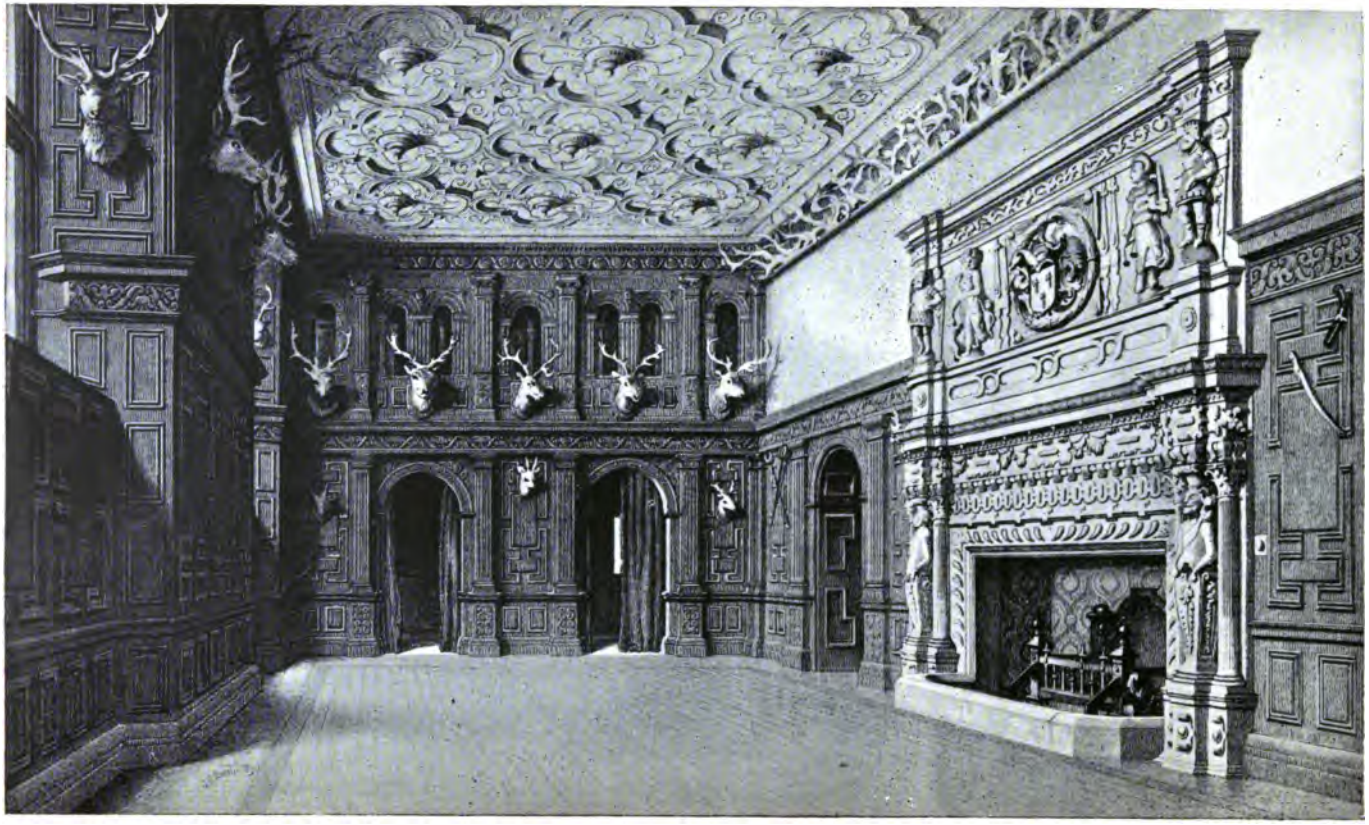
His next brother, Philip Kington, born 1832, assumed in 1868 the names of Blair Oliphant, of Ardbair, co. Perth, and married Henrietta, daughter of William H. Yaldwin, of Blackdown, co. Sussex, Esq., by whom he had issue six children. He conveyed this property, in 1865, to William Gibbs, of Tyntesfield, Esq.

'Fluellin,' or Llewellyn's Farm, mentioned in the 16th century as an appendage to Charlton, is, Mr. A. Gibbs thinks, represented by the upper or middle barton, or both of them, portions of Charlton farm. The family from whom it derived its designation must have occupied it for a very long period, for the name in a variety of spellings occurs repeatedly in the Wraxall Registers from their commencement in 1563 to 1721.

'Crede Place'[105] in Charlton, mentioned by Collinson, cannot be identified. The only occurrence of the name is that of 'Theynewin de Crede in 1242–3.'[106] It is perhaps an error for 'Wede,' a place name in Failand, applied to a locality 'between

[105] Collinson, III. 158.

[106] Som. Pleas. Somerset Record Soc., XI. 278.



INTERIOR OF THE HALL AT CHARLTON IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

the hamlet and the highroad from Clevedon to Bristol,' possibly where some remains of a building adjoin the lane at the base of an intervening descent.

The mansion, as appears from an ancient outline drawing attached to an old map in the possession of Mr. Gibbs, was, about 1600, a three-storied building with recessed centre, projecting wings, mullioned and transomed windows, and narrow, high-pitched gabled roof. It is uncertain whether the view is that of the northern or of the southern front, both of which were on much the same plan, and subsequently so repeatedly altered as to defy identification. If the latter is intended, the central recess is now occupied by the drawing-room. The house bears a marked resemblance in shape and character to 'the great house at Bristol,' the property and residence of Sir Ferdinando Gorges, the founder of Maine, U.S.A, and probably erected by him, a curious etching of which is to be found in the 'Exact Delineation of the famous city of Bristol, A.D. 1673.'

The existing house, to which its present owner added in 1884 a billiard-room, and, enlarging the dining-room, greatly altered and improved its western portion, presents the appearance of a handsome Tudor manor house, with large stone projecting windows and ornamental gables. The entrance through the ancient porch, projecting from the central recess, is into a screened passage piercing the building from North to South, and having the great hall on the West and the offices on the East, retaining thus the usual arrangement, the offices with the kitchen adjoining, the most ancient part of the house, lighted by small mullioned and hooded windows. The hall, of noble proportions, has an ornamental plaster ceiling, a large stone fireplace of florid Jacobean carving with figures of Justice and Mercy, and the quartered shield of Gorges impaling Speke, recently correctly re-tinctured.

The cornice of interlaced red-deer horns is especially effective; the windows are large and transomed.

On the South of the house are spacious flower gardens with walled kitchen gardens and glass houses, and a deer park; on the North the ground falls rapidly towards the Severn, of which and its surroundings a view of much magnificence is obtained from the crest of the hill before descending the steep carriage-drive through the wood to Portbury. There are ornamental lodges at both entrances to the park, and a dainty little dairy below the house on the North.

Hard by, on the North-east, a large oblong artificial pond, 175 feet by 85, lined with masonry, may not improbably be a relic of the monks of Portbury Priory, whose woods clothed the adjoining slopes, and to whom a stew or fishpond was an indispensable possession. Utilised subsequently for bathing, bisected by a stone wall, and floored at its western portion for that purpose, an arbour on a central island forming a convenient dressing-room, the cattle have still access to its eastern water.

Charlton House has been occupied for several years by Lord Hobhouse, as a summer residence.

FAILAND.

An outlying hamlet of the parish of Wraxall bears this name, which it is hardly likely can mean 'Fay' or 'Fairyland,' although its exceptional beauty of situation may lend colour to the tradition. It is curiously intermixed with a similar section of the adjoining parish of Portbury, both together known as Failand.

In or about 1283 Thomas Lord Berkeley, lord of Portbury, granted to John Fitz-john 'Wede,' between Failand and the

highway from Portbury to Bristol, with rights on the down (duna).[107]

It was written 'Foyland' in 1327, when Augustine de Foyland was assessed to the Exchequer lay subsidies at ij. shillings.[108]

Along its elevated southern ground runs the modern highroad from Clifton to Clevedon, abutting upon which was the ancient common land, enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1813.

Near its edge lies a little known but fairly perfect camp,[109] the area of which, perhaps from having been ploughed, has an angular rather than a circular appearance, but its raised circumference indicates the latter form. It consists of a single rampart or bank, constructed of earth and loose stones, from five to six feet in height, enclosing an area of some fifty yards in diameter. Its entrance was apparently on the north-west, where are some large stones. It may possibly have been nothing more than a defensive shelter for herdsmen and their cattle, but nevertheless of Belgic or British construction.

Finds of Roman coins on Wraxall and Failand hills are recorded.[110] Not far from this may be the traditional site of a destroyed church, the evidence of which rests mainly upon its inclusion in Speed's map of the county of Somerset (1611), which however is upon too small a scale to indicate its locality, though some remains of foundations on the side of the road leading northward towards Failand House are still visible.

These, as well as the camp, are within 'the manor farm,' of the antecedents of which little or nothing is known, though it may possibly represent the ancient residence of the De Faylands,

[107] Somerset. Archæol. Soc. Transactions, XXXIX. 2, 62.

[108] Somerset. Record Soc., III. 236.

[109] Barrett's Bristol, 20.

[110] Seyer's Bristol, I. 161.

now degraded to a poor farmhouse, but retaining in the arrangement of its rooms some manorial features, being entered from the South through a central passage, with the hall or living room on the West, and the kitchen on the East, the former built over a large cellar, while a circular staircase leads to the rooms above. Two small cherubs' heads in low relief ornament a doorway outside, and upon a stone now recumbent is inscribed: 'Boundary 1772.' The situation of the house, upon high tableland, from which the ground falls sharply to the North, reveals a view across the Severn of much beauty, while beneath are picturesque wooded dingles characteristic of the locality. Lines of elevation in the soil point to former terraces and walls, and the existence of a somewhat large garden.

Beyond these, upon a further plateau, stands Failand House, the property and residence of the Right Honourable Sir Edward Fry, late Lord Justice of Appeal—a large irregular mansion, dating from the beginning of the eighteenth century, built of the old red sandstone of the neighbourhood, and showing traces of divers alterations and additions, the latest those effected by its present appreciative proprietor, who has built a noble library and planted a pleasaunce of choice trees and shrubs. It commands a wide and beautiful prospect, across the Severn into Wales, and along the entire Cotswold range from Berkeley to Bath, with the rich intervening Gloucestershire country. The estate was the property of Abraham Elton of Bristol, Esq.,[111] who died in 1794, leaving a benefaction to the parish, and under his will and a partition amongst his family, vested in William Warry

[111] Ancestor of Sir Edmund Elton of Clevedon Court, Bart., for whose descent see Burke's Baronetage. Abraham Elton was Sheriff of Bristol 1702, 1728, 1736, Mayor 1710, 1719. Abraham Elton, jun., was Sheriff 1710, M.P. 1727, Mayor 1742, 1753. Jacob Elton was Mayor 1733. Sir Abraham Elton, Bart., was M.P. 1734—1741. Isaac Elton was Sheriff 1743, Mayor 1761. Isaac Elton, jun., was Sheriff 1765 and 1770.—Barrett's History of Bristol.

and Thomas Marwood Elton, who in 1861 sold it to Edmund Cooper, Esq., from whom it passed in 1874 to its present owner.

Further westward, conspicuous objects in the landscape, and commanding a magnificent prospect, are the church and curate's residence, the latter known as 'The Chantry,'—munificent gifts to the parish by Richard Vaughan of Elmes Place, Bath, Esq., brother of Edward Protheroe, the late rector, constructed of local limestone in the Middle-pointed style of Gothic, and having accommodation for 200 worshippers. The church comprises a broad and spacious nave with lofty open roof, a raised chancel, and wide short transepts—that on the North utilised for the organ, a fine instrument previously at Tyntesfield, a vestry on the same side,—and a handsome South porch, over which rises a tower surmounted by a stone broach spire, the whole 120 feet in height. The floors are tiled, the fittings of oak, the large windows glazed with stained or tinted glass. That in the East gable, of five lights, has a rose in its head, and in its central light a figure of the Saviour knocking at a closed door. The West window is of six lights; the six windows in the nave are of two; the transept windows are roses; the pulpit of stone and marble; the font, octagonal, of Bath stone, carved with the Evangelistic emblems and the sacred monogram. Upon a metal plate, built into the North wall of the Sacrarium, is the following inscription:—

"To the glory of God, and to the beloved memory of Richard Vaughan of Elmes Place, Bath; born A.D. 2 February, 1803, entered into rest 26th July, 1893. By whom this Church was founded and given to the Rectory of Wraxall for the worship of Almighty God according to the use of the Church of England, and for the benefit of the inhabitants of Failand in the Parish of Wraxall for ever, in the year of our Lord 1887. 'Blessed are they that dwell in Thy House: they will be still praising Thee.'—Psalm lxxxiv. 4."

The handsome residence of the curate, built in corresponding style and of similar materials, stands in a well-shrubbed lawn in convenient proximity to the church, the latest addition to which is a Jubilee clock. The cost of the church and house was £12,000.

The school house and teachers' residence near at hand were built in 1839 upon a site purchased by subscription from Colonel Blagrave, the former being used for forty years for Divine service by the Wraxall clergy. A portion of the bequest of Mrs. Elizabeth Martindale (see 'Parish Church Benefactions') was applied to the building fund.

Placed, I presume for shelter, in a nook beneath the summit of the ridge, just where the road to Portbury commences its steep descent, was the old residence of the Jubbes, now a farmhouse, and still called 'Jubbe's Court.' Some slight remains of foundations on the North are possibly those of a pond or garden. Of the family from which it derives its name very little is known. Matthew Jubbe was Sheriff of Bristol in 1495; Thomas Jubbe was in the commission of the peace for the Co. of Somerset, with Edward Gorges and others, in 1514–20–23, in which last year he was one of the collectors of subsidy from Bristol, 'a learned lawyer-man and of the council of the Duke of Buckingham of Thornbury Castle.' By his will, 1533, he desires to be buried at S. Thomas the Martyr, Bristol; speaks of his lands in Ireland, and his books concerning the law; leaves all his lands, after the death of Maude his wife, to Francis Stradling; speaks of his daughters (step-daughters, it would seem), Alice and Margaret Younge; and directs his wife and Francis Stradling, his executors, to "dispose of his estate for the wealthe of his soule in deedes of charity, as they will answer for it at the Daye of Judgement." Francis Stradling, who was of Easton in Gordano, had married his daughter, and dying in 1589 was buried there. He was the

son of Henry Stradling, second son of Thomas Stradling of St. Donats, Co. Glamorgan, Esq.

It is not unlikely that the family of Baber, better known at a later date as connected with Chew Magna, had also its origin from hence. Its place of residence was styled 'St. Baber's.' Its entries of birth and burial [there are no marriages] in the Wraxall Registers range from 1566 to 1750. In the will of Catharine, wife of William Baber, of Failand, 1591 [buried at Wraxall 1590; her husband, William Baber, in 1606], she mentions her father-in-law, George Tynte, and her daughter, Agnes Coller. She was evidently an heiress. In 1598 John Crocke, of Phayland, makes William Baber overseer of his will. This William Baber was probably the brother of Edward Baber, of Chew Magna, Sergeant-at-law, and uncle of John Baber, D.D., Vicar of Chew, 1589—1626, who was ancestor of Sir John Baber, Physician temp. James II.

Close to Failand Hill House, the property and residence of Mrs. Brittan, itself just within the parish of Portbury, and commanding a fine view across the Severn, stood a house of some size and importance, within the Wraxall boundary, upon the site now occupied by the poultry farm, and may not improbably have been inhabited by one of the families to which it is now impossible with any certainty to assign a location. Our choice lies between those of Baber, Sheppard, Harbord, and Madox, of the latter of which no trace remains, save the name of its dwelling, 'Madox Court,' taken down about 1878.

Approached hence by one of the narrow sunken lanes, which, avoiding the higher and lower levels, are carried along the slopes of the hill-sides, and are possibly Celtic in their origin, is the small scattered hamlet of Failand, in which some ivy-covered walls and gables represent an extinct tanning industry. In some meadow

lands known as 'the small lands,' part of the lower Failand farm, the 'balks' are visible, which indicate cultivation on the open field system in former times. The village, once a considerable one, was the residence of several families of importance, amongst whom were the Medes of Medes Place, and those of Madox, Baber, Harbord, and Sheppard. All traces of their habitations have been destroyed and their sites forgotten.

FAMILY OF MEDE.

This family, deriving its surname doubtless from original residence in the meadows, was possessed, before 1461, of an ancient capital messuage with 100 acres of land at Overton, in the parish of Arlingham, known as 'Medes land' to this day.[112] But before that date we find 'Nicholas atte Mede' assessed to the Exchequer lay subsidies in 1327–8, in the co. of Somerset.[113] From him descended Thomas Mede, "of the ancient family of Mede, of Medes place, in Feyland, in the parish of Wraxall, nr. Portbury, in the co. of Somerset, where anciently they had continued."[114] They were wealthy merchants and citizens of Bristol, in the parish of S. Mary Redcliffe. Thomas Mede, son of Thomas aforesaid, was Bailiff of Bristol in 1438, and Sheriff in 1452. His son, or brother, Philip Mede, was Bailiff in 1444, Mayor in 1458, succeeding Canynges, and again in 1461 and 1468, M.P. in 1460,[115] and lord of Barrow, in Tickenham. He obtained valuable charters for the city from King Edward IV., 1461, raised in a single night a contingent of fighting men on the side of William Lord Berkeley, afterwards Marquis, at the battle of

[112] Smyth's Hund. of Berkeley, 65.

[113] Som. Rec. Soc., III. 236.

[114] Smyth's Lives of the Berkeleys, II. 172. Barrett's Bristol, p. 679.

[115] Seyer's Bristol, II. 189, 192, 194. Brist. and Gloucest. Archæol. Soc., XIX. 123.

Nibley Green, of which more hereafter, 1470. His wife's name was Isable, mentioned in his will, by whom he had a son and heir, Richard Mede, and a daughter Isabel, the wife of Maurice, brother of William Marquis Berkeley, and his successor as Baron of Berkeley.

Philip Mede's Will is dated 1471, and he died in 1475.

Excerpta e testamento Philippi Mede, burgensis Bristol, Datum 11mo Januarii 1471. Lego corpus sepeliendum in ecclesiâ Beatæ Mariæ de Redcliff, juxta altare Sancti Stephani Martyris. Vicario ecclesiæ de Redcliffe 20 solidos: fabricæ ecclesiæ unam pipam glasti (woad). Omnia maneria terras, &c., in comitata Somerset et Bristol Isabellæ uxori meæ, remaneant Ricardo Mede filio meo, remaneant Maricio Berkeley et Margaretæ filiæ meæ uxori ejus. Ordino et constituo executores testamenti mei Isabellam uxorem meam, Mauricium Berkeley, Isabellam uxorem ejus filiam meam, et Ricardum filium.[116]

It is clear, therefore, that the fine monument now to be described is that of the testator, and not of his father, as has been surmised.

The eastern end of the North aisle of the choir of S. Mary Redcliffe Church was the Mede Chantry, dedicated in honour of S. Stephen, and founded perhaps by Philip Mede. Its ornaments, valued at LII^{s} viij^{d} were, in 1547–8, confiscated to the King's use.[117] The beautiful heavily-canopied double altar-tomb standing out from its north wall may possibly have been erected by him, and furnished with its effigies either then or at a later date, the adjoining compartment being left for future use. They underlie a handsome continuous canopy of rich 15th century stone carving, supported by demi-angels bearing open books, and wearing upright caps with hexagonal flowers upon their heads. Above them rise

[116] Witnessed by Magister Johannes Mede, Rector de Wraxall. A translation is printed in the Rev. T. P. Wadley's Book of Wills. Bristol and Gloucester Archæol. Soc., p. 157.

[117] Inventories of Church Goods, 6 Edw. VI. Brist. and Glouc. Archæol. Soc., XII. 99.

crocketed and finialled niches, surmounted by cornice and cresting. Within the western recess are full-length recumbent effigies of a man and his wife, their heads resting upon cushions supported by angels. The man is bare-headed, his hair combed back, and is clad in a sleeveless mantle, from which emerge the arms and cuffs of an undergown, a scarf hangs from his left shoulders, and a leathern gypciere from his girdle, his feet resting upon a couchant dog. His wife wears a broad fillet across her forehead, her head-dress falling back, a tight-fitting gown with cuffs at the wrists, and a short girdle, her pointed shoes enveloped in the folds of her dress, resting upon two little dogs. On the wall behind the effigies is a shield with the Arms of Mede: 'Gu., a chevron ermine between 3 trefoils slipped arg.' (*or* or), and upon a fillet of brass along its front an incomplete inscription: "**. . . predicti Thomæ Mede, ac ter maioris istius villæ Bristolliæ, qui obt. 20 die mensis Decembris Anno Dñi 1475 quorum animabus propicietur Deus, Amen.**" It is reasonable to suppose that the missing word before '*predicti*' may have been '*filius*' or '*frater*.'[118]

At the back of the adjoining and vacant tomb against the north wall beneath its canopy, is an oblong mural brass plate,[119] upon which are incised kneeling figures of a man and his wife, a second female standing behind him. He is of youthful appearance with smooth face and long flowing hair, and is clad in complete plate armour, over which is his surcoat of arms—(gu.) 'a chevron ermine between 3 trefoils slipped (arg)'—and is without spurs, his helmet lying on the ground. His wife wears a pedimental head-dress with veil hanging down behind, necklace and girdle, and plain gown, over which is her mantle emblazoned with her arms: '(gu),

[118] There is a good plate of the tomb in Skelton's Antiquities of Bristol, No. 33. Barrett's Bristol, 585.

[119] Engraved in 'Bristol: Past and Present,' II. 208.

2 (or 3) lions rampant (arg)."[120] The standing figure is similarly clad, but without mantle. From the kneeling figures arise the legends: "Sancta Trinitas, unus Deus, miserere nobis;" and "Pater de celis Deus, miserere nobis," addressed to the Holy Father, whose radiated demi-figure supported by a cloud, His hands raised in blessing, is engraved above. This is no doubt the monument of Richard Mede, son and heir of Philip aforesaid, and his two wives Julian (or Elizabeth), daughter of John Arthur of Clapton in Gordano, Esq., and Anne, daughter of Thomas Pauncefote of Hasfield, co. Gloucester, Esq. (she remarried Arthur Kemys),[121] and is identified by her Arms. Richard was of Barrow Court in Tickenham, and had issue, who died young, and dying himself in or about 1488, his sister Margaret (or Isabel) became his heir.

She was a widow, and the mother of three children who had all died young, when in 1465 she married Maurice Berkeley, of Thornbury, brother and heir-apparent of William, afterwards Marquis, Berkeley, bringing to her husband lands in Somerset, and the lease of Medes Place for 21 years.[122] As heir to her brother she inherited lands and tenements in the co. of Gloucester, in Bedminster, Felonde, Ashton, Wraxale, and Middle Tykenham, and had for her jointure others in Thornbury and elsewhere.

Maurice Berkeley was thirty years old at the time of his marriage, which was a very happy one, and when in 1469 the long-continued feud between his own and the Shrewsbury families culminated in the battle of Nibley-Green, for which his brother had gathered an army of a thousand men, he "stole from his young wife and tender

[120] Visitation of Gloucestershire 1623. Harleian Soc., p. 257.

[121] Collinson's Somerset, III. 178. I suppose she carried to the second husband portions of the Mede property, because I find Roger Kemys in possession of Barrow Court, in Tickenham, 3 Eliz. (see post, p. 12).

[122] Smyth's Lives of the Berkeleys, II. 173; quoted by Seyers, I. 488, and Barrett, 256. Seyers, I. 488.

son, the hope at that time of both their posterities, and joined him with a fair band of men suddenly raised from Thornbury, where he then dwelt." The story of the battle and the death of Lord Lisle are too well known to need repetition here.[123] But it was a poor return for the fraternal support afforded to Lord Berkeley, that Maurice should be disinherited from the Lordship and Castle of Berkeley, which his brother, in return for a Marquisate, alienated to King Henry VI.,[124] disingenuously alleging displeasure at the mesalliance he had formed. The historian, however, does justice to the lady.

"How little cause the Marquis Berkeley had to complain of the obscure parentage of the lady Isable, which he vainly called base, and of the unworthiness of his brother's match with so mean blood as he reproached it, making that a motive to his own vast expenses, and of the disinheritance of this Lord his brother, lest any of her base blood should inherit after him, may to his further reproof be returned upon his memory, to be but a feigned and unbrotherly quarrel picked on purpose to give colour to his own exorbitances. Like vain were his exceptions to his said brother and heir, for defending the virtue of his wife and worthiness of her parentage. She was a virtuous lady, and evermore content with better or harder fortunes." [125]

Surviving her husband nine years, and dying at Coventry 1516-17, æt 70, she was carried with great funeral pomp to London and buried by his side in the Church of the Augustinian Friars (burnt down in 1666), leaving issue three sons, of whom the eldest, Maurice, succeeded to the Barony, and one daughter.

In addition to the monumental inscriptions in S. Mary Redcliffe

[123] Bristol and Gloucester Archæological Soc., III. 315.

[124] They remained in the Crown until 1557, when they were restored to the family. Smyth's Lives of the Berkeleys, II. 277.

[125] Smyth's Lives of the Berkeleys, II. 173.

Church already noted, the following remains to be accounted for. It is described as having been upon the floor at the foot of the Mede Monument:—"Hic jacet Johannes Mede, burgensis villæ Bristolliæ, qui obiit 17° die mensis Aprilis, A.D. 1496, et juxta eum requiescit Alicia uxor ejus, quorum animabus propicietur Deus. Amen."[126] He may possibly have been a brother of Philip Mede, and perhaps the Master John Mede, Rector of Wraxall, who was one of the witnesses of his Will, and who was presented to the Rectory by Sir Theobald Gorges in 1467; but if so, he must have retired from his benefice before 1493. We find one of his Christian name witnessing, in 1441, the Will of Robert Hall of Bristol.[127]

No other members of the family are to be traced hereabouts, but in the Visitation of Cambridgeshire, 1619,[128] is a pedigree deduced from Thomas Meade of co. Somerset, and continued for several generations, with the same armorial shield, and additional quarterings of Fuller, Brakin, and Chichele. Thomas Mott of Bocking, Essex, married Alice Meade, with the same arms.[129] Medes Place must have passed, soon after the death of Lady Isable in 1516, to the family of Morgan, lords of the manor of Easton in Gordano,—for by his will, 1567[130], Thomas Morgan of Feilond, gent., leaves to Edmund of Morgan, his eldest son, 'the house of Feilonde called Medes Court.' It is thought to have been situated upon the high land known as 'the bowling green,' and in that case had a magnificent situation.

[126] Barrett's Bristol, 585.

[127] Rev. J. P. Wadley's Notes of Bristol Wills, 131.

[128] Visitation of Cambridge, Harleian Soc., 69. Trans. of Mon. Brass Soc., III. 13.

[129] Visitations of Essex, 1552-8, Harleian Soc., 458.

[130] Somerset Wills, I. 87.

FAMILY OF HARBORD.

Another family deriving its origin from this parish, its place of residence also unknown, is that of Harbord, maternal ancestors of Baron Suffield, who adopted this surname in lieu of Morden in 1742.

The name occurs in connection with Wraxall in 1327–8, when 'Johannes Herberd' is assessed to the Exchequer Lay Subsidy, and in 1419, when Agnes, relict of Thomas Gorges, leaves bequests to 'Richard Herbard.'[131]

Richard Gorges, who died in 1480, married Matilda, widow of Richard Harbord. She re-married thirdly Sir Henry Roos, who by his will, 1504, left legacies to Ann and Matilda Harbord, presumably daughters of her first marriage. She died in 1511, leaving bequests to Thomas Harbord her son, and to his daughter Elizabeth, and directing masses to be said for John Harbord.

The Wraxall Registers contain no entries of marriage or of burial, but record their baptisms from 1596 to 1611.

They migrated hence to Welton, in Midsomer-Norton, in which parish many of them were buried.[132]

William Harbord, or Harvord, of Welton, styled 'mariner,' and so possibly the owner or commander of a privateer, married Dorothy, daughter of Richard Sheppard by Elizabeth his wife, relict of Edmund Tynte, both of Wraxall. In his will, 1615,[133] he mentions his sons Charles, Samuel, and John, and his daughter Frances, under seventeen at that date.[134] His monument in the Church of Midsomer Norton, without armorial shield but adorned

131 Will of Agnes Gorges, 1419, among the Gorges papers at Wraxall Rectory. *Clifton Antiquarian Club Transactions*, iv. 241.

132 Collinson's Somerset, II. 151.

133 Somerset Wills, VI. 99, 100.

134 He had another daughter, Elizabeth, who married first Michael Meredith, and secondly Coxe. Will 1655.—Somerset Wills, III. 56.

with Jacobean carvings, was restored by his son, Sir Charles Harbord, in 1678. Edward Tynte of Chelvey, Esq., by his will, 1629, left a gold ring to his nephew, Mr. Charles Harbord.

Sir Charles Harbord, born at Wraxall about 1595, was Surveyor-General to Kings Charles I. and II., was of Stanning Hall, co. Norfolk, and Morehall, co. Herts. He married Mary, daughter of John Van Alst of Flanders, and by her (who died 5th Sept., 1666, æt. 64) had issue four sons and three daughters, all mentioned in his will 1678.[135] He was buried at Besthorpe, co. Norfolk, 11th June, 1679.[136]

His eldest son, Philip Harbord, married Anne, sister and co-heir of Anthony Drury of Besthorpe, Esq. (she died Jan. 1678-9), and by her had two daughters, Anne and Elizabeth, mentioned in their grandfather's Will as under age in 1678. He died in 1687.

William Harbord, the second son, was of Grafton Park, co. Northants, Ranger of St. James' Park, and Ambassador to the Ottoman Porte. He married first Mary, daughter and co-heir of Arthur Duck, LL.B., Master of Requests, of Chiswick, co. Middlesex, and Grafton Park, inheriting that estate jure uxoris, by whom he had three daughters and co-heirs; 1, Margaret, married in 1689 to Robert King second Baron Kingston of Ireland, died without issue 1998; 2, Mary, wife of Sir Edward Ayscough of South Kelsey, co. Linc., by whom she had two daughters; and 3, Grace, who married Thomas Hatcher of Kirkly, co. Linc., and died without issue in 1703. William Harbord married secondly Catherine, daughter of Edward Russell and sister of Edward Earl of Orford, and by her had issue a fourth daughter and co-heir,

[135] Somerset Wills, VI. 99, 100.

[136] Baker's Northamptonshire, II. 172. In 1670, for his services as Auditor of the Duchy of Cornwall, Surveyor-General of all the Royal Manors and of the jointures of Queens Henrietta and Catherine, he had an augmentation of honour to his Coat of Arms (already granted by Sir William Segar, 'Quarterly azure and gules 3 lions rampant argent') of a fourth lion and an imperial crown.

Letitia, married 1703 to Sir Rowland Winn of Nostell Priory, co. York, third Baronet, from whom descend Barons Headley and St. Oswald.

Sir Charles Harbord, the third son, a captain R.N., unmarried, was killed at sea in action against the Dutch in 1672, and buried in Westminster Abbey.

John Harbord, the fourth son, of Gunton, co. Norfolk, married Catharine, daughter of Sir John Rous of co. Suffolk, but dying without issue in 1710, left that estate to his nephew, Harbord Cropley, of whom below, who took the name of Harbord.

Anne Harbord, the eldest daughter of Sir Charles, married Richard Newman, of Fivehead Magdalene. Hester Harbord, the second, married Simon Britiffe of Cley, co. Norfolk.

Catherine Harbord, the third, married, first Thomas Wright of Kilverston, co. Norfolk, by whom she had issue; and secondly William Cropley of Haughley, co. Suffolk, by whom she had issue: 1, Harbord Cropley, above mentioned, heir of his uncle, John Harbord, and 2, Judith Cropley, the wife of John Morden of Suffield; their son William Morden, afterwards Sir William Harbord, Bart., K.B., assuming that name by act of Parliament, 1742, under the Will of his maternal uncle, Harbord Harbord of Gunton, formerly Cropley. Sir William married Elizabeth, daughter and co-heir of Robert Britiffe, of Baconsthorpe, co. Norfolk, and had issue—

Sir Harbord Harbord, of Gunton, second Baronet, created Baron Suffield of Suffield 1786, who married Mary, daughter and co-heir of Sir Ralph Assheton, third Baronet, of Middleton, co. Lanc.

Failand Lodge occupies the site of the original "Failand Inn," a well-known hostelry at which a Club of the neighbouring gentry was wont to meet, the magistrates holding petty sessions here. It stood upon the open down, until its enclosure in 1812, when the direction

TYNTESFIELD, GARDEN FRONT PRIOR TO 1843.

FROM A WATER-COLOUR DRAWING.

From a Photograph by Rev. W. A. WOODWARD.

TYNTESFIELD, ENTRANCE FRONT PRIOR TO 1843.

FROM A WATER-COLOUR DRAWING.

From a Photograph by Rev. W. A. WOODWARD.

of the high road was altered, and the present inn substituted for the older one. It was leased in 1756 by Sir Charles Kemys Tynte to Canon Wilkins of Easton in Gordano, Esq. The house, rebuilt by George Penrose Seymour of Belmont, Esq., was let as a private residence, until in 1839 a boarding school for the education of boys of the middle classes, one of the earliest attempts of the kind, was established here by a committee of gentlemen. It flourished for 41 years, upwards of 1200 boys receiving their education here, at the expiration of which time, having become the property of Antony Gibbs of Tyntesfield, Esq., its present owner, it became a laundry, and was afterwards let to a market gardener. Near the house stood a pedestal of stones, once perhaps the base of a cross, and called by that name, but destroyed by misadventure for repairing the road. Upon the high ground further to the west was a monument of greater interest, no longer in existence, but undoubtedly a cromlech of prehistoric antiquity, the destruction of which is much to be deplored.

TYNTESFIELD.

FAMILY OF TYNTE.

The family of Tynte, giving its name to this place, although subsequently associated in local history with the neighbouring manor of Chelvey still in its possession, had certainly its origin in Wraxall, in and about which it was widely spread, its members holding the position of 'franklins,' freeholders, or yeomen, in Backwell, Flax Bourton, Long Ashton, Chew Magna, Winford, and other adjoining parishes.

In 1404 Robert Tynte of Wraxall granted to John Wale and

his son lands and reversions in Wale's Place, Portbury, and Easton in Gordano.[138]

In 1410 Thomas Lord Berkeley granted to John Tynte and Alice his wife, with reversion to Robert Tynte and Isabella his wife and their heirs, Whelpes place in this parish,[139] conjecturally bearing reference to the lioncel in their arms.

There are Wills of John Tynte of Wraxall, franklin, 1542; John Tynte of Long Ashton, 1550; Isabel Tynte of Long Ashton, 1558; John Tynte of Wraxall, 1563; Robert Tynte of Wraxall, 1577; Edmund Tynte of Backwell, yeoman, 1577; Edmund Tynte of Wraxall, yeoman, 1570, without date of proof.[140]

Edmund Tynte married Elizabeth, daughter of John Panther or Panter of Keynsham (who married secondly, in 1571,[142] Richard Sheppard, their daughter Dorothy becoming the wife of William Harbord of Midsomer Norton, ancestor of Baron Suffield) and had issue—

I. Edmund Tynte, ob. 1670, aged 6.

II. John Tynte of Wraxall, Esq., of the Middle Temple, Barrister-at-Law, styled in the Register of Burials 'the Counsellor,' who married Rebecca, daughter of Richard Stevens, Esq., but dying without issue in 1616 passed on his property to his brother.[141]

III. Edward Tynte, Esq., who married here, in 1613,[142] Anne, daughter of Sir Edward Gorges of Charlton, and by her had issue as below. He purchased the manor of Chelvey[143]

138 Strachey Papers. Add. MSS., Brit. Mus.

139 Deed in the possession of Antony Gibbs of Tyntesfield, Esq.

140 Rev. F. Brown's Somerset Wills, VI. 88, 90, 92, etc.

141 His monumental brass tablet in Wraxall Church.

142 Wraxall Registers.

143 His gravestone in Chelvey Church.

from his brother-in-law, John Aishe, Esq., and resided there. He died and was buried there 1629.[143] Will same date.[140] His wife was buried there, 1660.[143]

IV. William Tynte, to whom his father left lands at Bourton.

V. Sir Robert Tynte, went to Ireland, was founder of the family now represented by Joseph Pratt Tynte of Tynte's Park, co. Wicklow. Will 1643:[144] left bequest towards the re-edifying of the Tynte's house at Wraxall.

VI. Dorothy Tynte, married William Harbord.

VII. Florence Tynte, married Thomas Sheppard.

Edward Tynte, Esq., the second son, and heir to his brother John, had issue—[145]

1. John Tynte, Esq., born 1618, General in the Royal Army. M.P. for Bridgwater 1661, thrice married—first to a lady of Devon, by whom he had a daughter married to John, eldest son of Francis Baber, D.C.L., of Chew-Magna; secondly to Jane, daughter and heir of the Rev. Hugh Halswell, Rector of Cheriton, Hants, by whom he had issue Sir Halswell Tynte, first baronet, ancestor of the Kemys-Tyntes of that place, and Cefn Mably, co. Glamorgan; thirdly at Bradford, Wilts, 1663, to Frances, daughter of Francis Trenchard of Cutteridge, co. Wilts, by Elizabeth his wife, daughter of Sir Edward Gorges of Wraxall. (She re-married Sir Edward Nevill, Baron of the Exchequer, and died in 1714.) He died 1670. Will 1669.[144]

2. Robert Tynte, buried at Chelvey 1636, æt. 16.[146]

144 Rev. F. Brown's Somerset Wills, VI. 90–93.

145 Visitation of Somerset, 1623. Harleian Soc., 113.

146 His gravestone in Chelvey Church.

3. Sir Hugh Tynte of Peperharrow, co. Surrey, a cavalier officer 1643–9, Mayor of Guildford 1688. By his wife Penelope, daughter of Sir Philip Frowde, he had no issue. (She married secondly Nathaniel, Baron Crewe, Lord Bishop of Durham.) Will 1690.[144]
4. Rev. Edward Tynte, Vicar of Yatton 1666–79. His eldest son, Colonel Edward Tynte, Will 1709,[144] was Governor of Carolina.
5. Dorothie Tynte,
6. Florence Tynte, } unmarried.

Among the Royalist Composition papers in the Record Office is a memorandum by John Tynte of Chelvey, Esq., in his own handwriting:

"1646, Feb. 2. Sir Robert Tynte, his uncle, has bequeathed to him £1000, according to his Will Ap. 3, 1643, part of the £4000 due to him, Sir Robert, from His Majesty and House of Parliament in England, being lent in ready coin or ticket for the use of His Majesty's army in Ireland, £1000 thereof [increased by codicil, May 10, to £2000] he freely doth give and bequeath to the compounder, John Tynte, towards the re-edifying and repairing of the house in Wraxall, Somerset, being the ancient house of his ancestors, for which John Tynte prayeth that he may be admitted to a composition."

From the Journals of the House of Commons, Oct. 3, 1646:

"Whereas the House did order Ap. 3, 1642, that Sir Robert Tynte should have the public faith of the kingdom for the repayment of £4000 with interest borrowed of him by the Lord President of Munster; that the said Sir Robert Tynte being now dead, and that Captain Sir William Tynte[147] having the money in his possession when it was borrowed, It is now ordered for the

[147] Eldest son and heir of Sir Robert Tynte.

comfort and satisfaction of the said Captain Sir William Tynte that Sir J. Wollaston, Treasurer at Guildhall, do give the public faith for what is due of principal and interest to Captain Sir William Tynte and his assigns."

It is doubtful whether any portion of the legacy above mentioned was actually expended upon the repairs of the Wraxall mansion, John Tynte preferring Chelvey Court as his residence, and adding to it, *inter alia*, an ornate entrance porch on the east, bearing his arms and those, as is supposed, of his third wife. The old family house at Wraxall was approached through an avenue of fine elms. Sir Charles Harbord, Kt., by his will (1678), left a bequest to the inhabitants of Wraxall for apprenticing two boys, at the discretion of 'my worthy kinsman and friend, Hugh Tynte, Esq., or his heirs, being owners of that ancient Mansion House, wherein he now dwelleth in Wraxall aforesaid.'[148]

The stately residence of Antony Gibbs, Esq., deriving its name from one of the enclosures of the property, stands upon or very near to the site of the ancient mansion of the Tynte family, of which no vestige remains, known as 'Tynte's Place.' Degraded to the condition of a farm-house, and subsequently known from its occupiers as 'Brodribbs,' 'Sadler's,' &c., its exceptionally beautiful situation attracted the attention, in 1813, of John Penrose Seymour, Esq. (at that time owner of the adjoining estate of Belmont), who purchased the place, his son and successor, the Rev. George Turner Seymour, erecting a handsome mansion upon it. His widow alienated it in 1843 to William Gibbs, Esq., the father of its present proprietor, and he by many successive additions and alterations, whereby much of the former fabric became buried within the loftier walls of the later structure, completed the existing palatial building. The architect mainly responsible

[148] Somerset Wills, Rev. F. Brown, VI. 99.

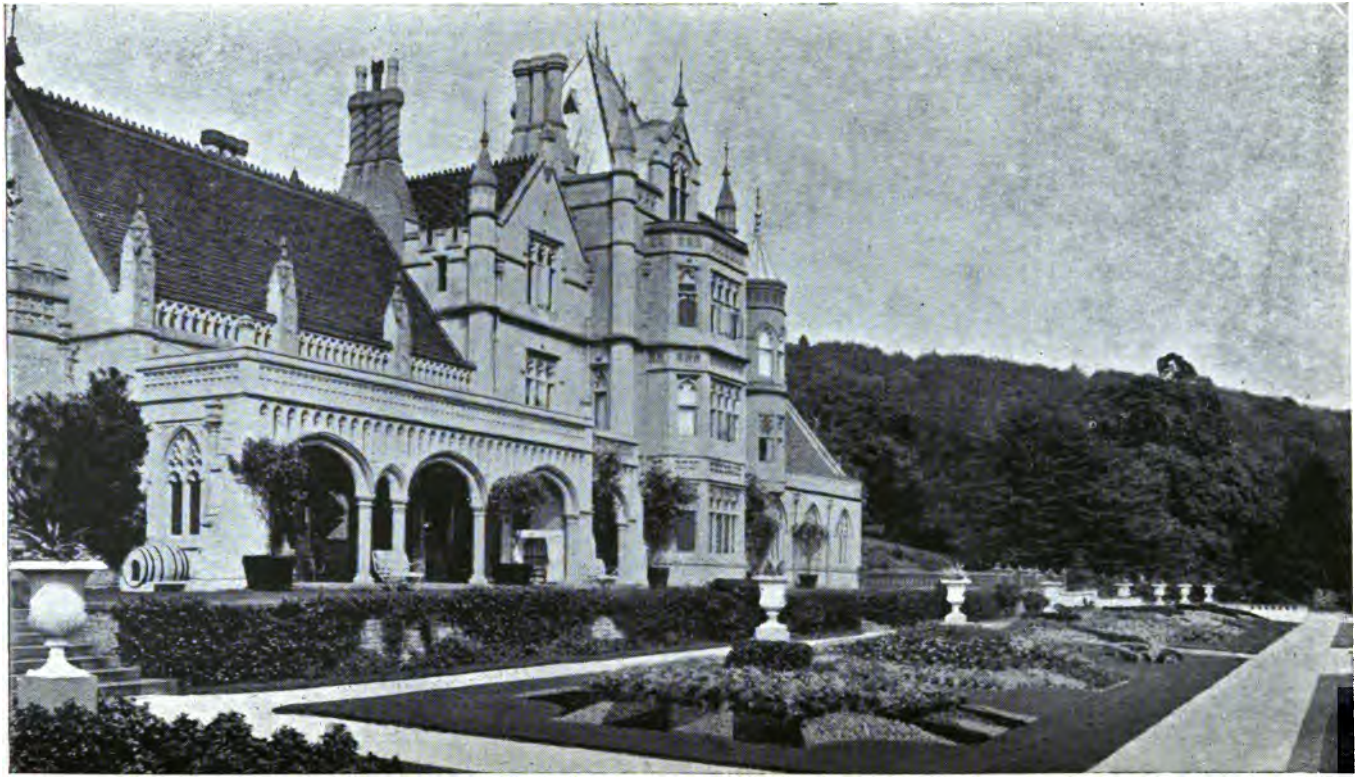
was Mr. John Norton, of Bristol. Sir Arthur Blomfield, A.R.A., was the builder of the beautiful chapel, and Mr. Henry Woodyer, of Guildford, of subsequent additions, notably the drawing-room, cloister, and the bays of the eastern façade.

The position is one of extreme loveliness, the stone-built mansion, of imposing architectural elevation, occupying a terraced plateau at half-height upon the hillside, amid sheltering woods, which, clothing the limestone range with indigenous and artificial growth, are traversed by glades and dingles of varied beauty. The prospect from the house, which faces South and West, is of unusually wide extent, including the rich intervening pastoral valley from Dundry to the Mendips and the Bristol Channel, whose broad silver streak, broken by its 'holmes' and horizoned by the mountains of Wales, is a notable feature in the charming combination of sea and land, hill and plain, woodland and meadow, outstretched at length, in which may be noticed the church towers of Dundry, Barrow Gurney, Flax Bourton, Backwell, Wraxall, Nailsea, Tickenham, Yatton, and Clevedon.

Entered on the East through an arched porch,[149] forming the lower portion of a high-roofed, clock-bearing, pinnacled tower, a corridor leads into the centre of the house, and has on either side the spacious dining-room and the library, the former enlarged in 1888 by the addition of three stone-mullioned bays carried up to the story above; the latter a noble room with open timber roof, recessed windows, carved chimney-piece and cornice, and book-lined walls with their numerous valuable treasures.[150] Through a spacious and lofty staircase-hall, with large stone fireplace, a

[149] Over the door, with the quartered shield of Gibbs and Hucks, is the gracious salutation—'Pax Intrantibus, Salus Abeuntibus.'

[150] Among these may be mentioned an unique copy of 'Bigland's Gloucestershire,' with all its subsequent additions; a Chaucer on vellum from the Kelmscott Press; an illuminated MS. Service Book, and the fourth folio of Shakespeare in metal German binding.



TYNTESFIELD, SOUTH FRONT.

From a Photograph by Rev. W. A. WOODWARD.

morning-room and music-room on either hand, an anteroom, in which are two remarkable panels of Windsor tapestry[151] specially designed and manufactured for their owner, gives access to the great drawing-room, to which a handsome carved-stone cloister verandah was added on the South in 1885. This noble apartment, open to its roof, and having an elaborately decorated alabaster fireplace, contains, amongst other noticeable objects, a magnificent Japanese screen,[152] originally made for the Mikado; a curious Italian ivory casket of the 14th century;[153] and upon its walls large pictures by Turner and Creswick, the first representing the temple of Jupiter at Ægina, in the artist's best and earliest manner, the second St. Michael's Mount in Cornwall, with the addition of figures on horseback by Ansdell. There is also here a Holy Family, by Bellini; and in the other rooms and upon the staircase (among many family portraits and other pictures of much excellence, notably the fine full-length of William Gibbs, Esq., by Sir William Boxall) are—S.S. Laurence and Antony, by Zurbaran; The Mater Dolorosa, by Murillo; a portrait of a Dutch gentleman, by Frans Hals; 'Le petit chaudron,' by Rubens; The Temple of Osiris at Philæ, by Muller; Southampton Water, by Sir Augustus Callcott; a View of Rome, by Richard Wilson; and Venus Disrobing, by Etty.

To the north of the drawing-room is the billiard-room, adjoining

[151] These represent scenes of Somerset history connected with King Alfred, and have the arms of the family in their borders. They will always be of great rarity, the manufactory established by Queen Victoria having been abandoned.

[152] Made by special skilled craftsmen, who laboured upon it for six years, and expended upon it the most costly materials and laquer; it represents 'The Legend of Kiku-Jido,' its back panels 'The pilgrimage to Mount Fugi.'

[153] Upon this, in carved panels, is the romance of 'The Chevalier au Signe,' a wonderful history of a Queen, whose seven children were turned into swans, which has been illustrated by Lord Aldenham for the Early English Text Society from an unique MS. in the British Museum.

which a handsome erection of glass and iron, forming a capacious winter-garden and conservatory, has superseded the smaller edifice of the same kind constructed by the Rev. G. T. Seymour.

Upon the steep slope which rises immediately from the house on the north-east stands the magnificent chapel, unrivalled as an appendage to a private gentleman's residence, built on the plan of a college chapel in the Decorated style, with lofty high-pitched roof and bell-turret, its interior rich in mosaic pavements, stained-glass windows, and costly adornments, a fine organ in its western stone-carved gallery, and its external doorway on the north protected by a choice specimen of delicately-wrought ironwork.

Upon brass plates, within a blank arcade, and beneath beautiful marble and metal memorial crosses in the north wall, are the following :—

"IN LOVING MEMORY OF WILLIAM GIBBS.
'THE HOARY HEAD IS A CROWN OF GLORY, IF IT BE FOUND IN THE WAY OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.'"

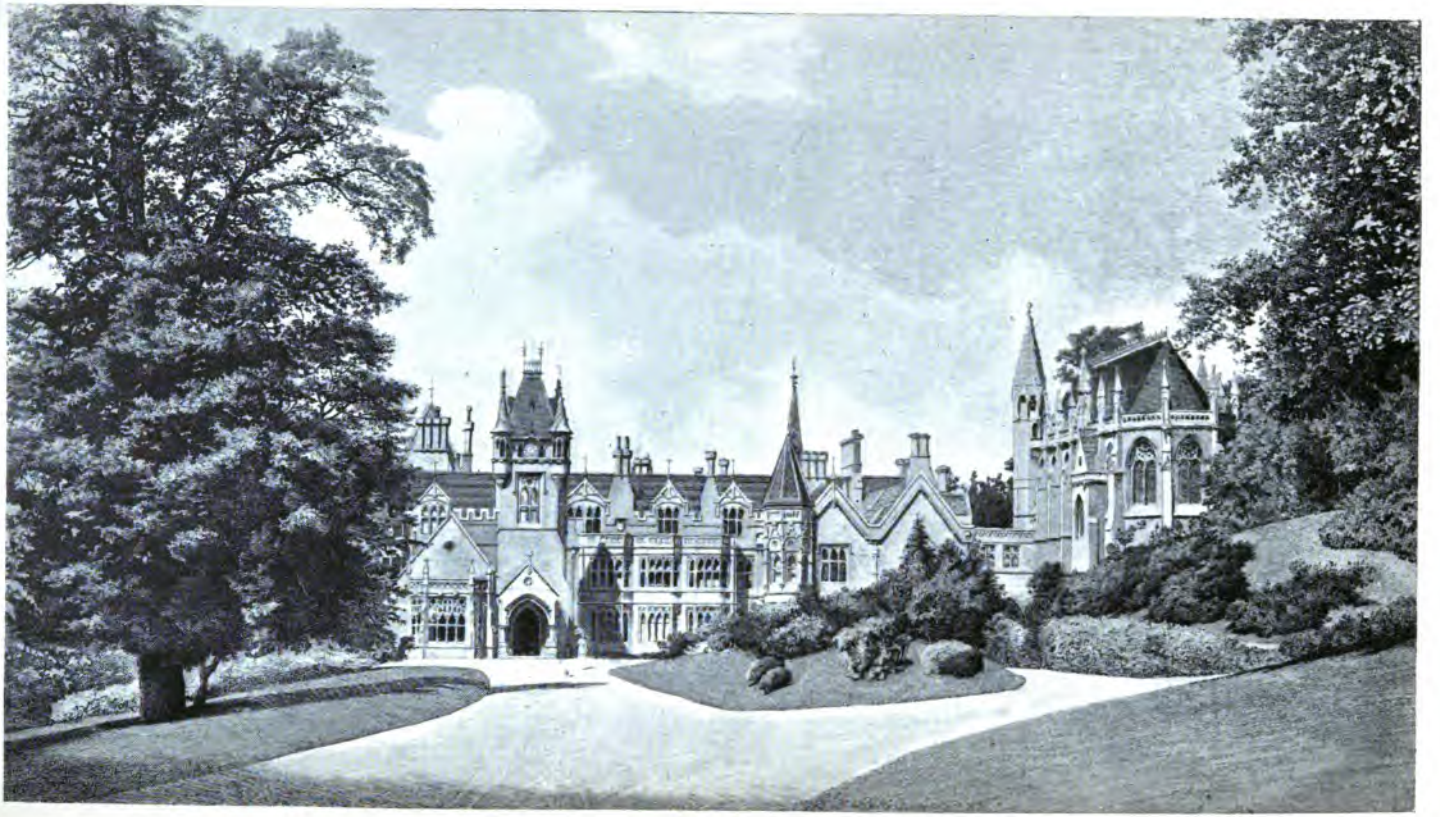
"Matilda Blanche Gibbs beneath this Cross found daily comfort in prayer and praise. Born Dec. 17, 1817. Died Sep. 22, 1887."

"A. A. G. ANIMA SIMPLEX REQUIESCIT IN PACE. RESPICE HUMILITATEM ANCILLÆ TUÆ, DOMINE."

"W. G.—G. A. G. IN HOC SACELLO JAMPRIDEM ORARE SOLITI IN CHRISTO PLACIDE OBDORMIVERUNT."

"ALICIÆ BLANCHÆ CONJUGI BENEMERENTI DULCISSIMÆ DESIDERATISSIMÆ QUÆ VIXIT IN CONJUGIO [AH! BREVIS LUX] ANNOS IV. ET OBDORMIVIT IN DOMINO, ANN. XXVII. NATA, FECIT ALFREDUS GURNEY MARITUS, SPE DUM OMNIA RESTITUERENTUR EXPECTANS.

HANC TU, CHRISTE, CHORIS JUNGAS CÆLESTIBUS ORO,
TE CANAT, ET PLACIDUM JUGITER ASPICIAT,
ET DILECTA TUO QUÆ SEMPER PENDET AB ORE
AUXILIUM SOBOLI CONJUGIOQUE FERAT."



TYNTESFIELD IN THE COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

A little higher on the hillside is the pleasant Chaplain's house, and near it the engine-house, from whence electric light is supplied to every part of the premises; while eastward are the stables, forming a handsome quadrangle, and southward, where they are concealed from view by the fall of the ground and the intervening trees, extensive kitchen gardens with handsome stone orangery, spacious ranges of glass houses, and convenient residences for the gardeners. Picturesque stone lodges at all the entrances of the park, their gates 'opening of their own accord,' being worked by internal windlasses; intermediate lodges for domestic servants; and a 'water-catch' on the crest of the hill, an ingenious contrivance, whereby the rainfall upon an acre of enclosed and asphalted ground is intercepted, and conveyed by pipes to the house below, are only some of the many admirable appliances of an exceptionally perfect and delightful residence.

Within the demesne, at some distance to the east, another mansion-house, Belmont, is now included. This was a separate estate, the property at the end of the 18th century of William Turner, Esq.,[154] who built the house upon the site of an older cottage, and laid out walks in the wood behind it, one of them planted with an avenue of yews.[155] Engaged to marry Miss Hannah More, he employed selections from her poems to ornament his grounds, placing them upon tablets of wood, two of which have recently been repainted and restored to their original positions.

154 Collinson's Somerset, III. 155.

155 At the east end of this, upon a stone basement supporting an urn of oblong shape, are the following inscriptions:

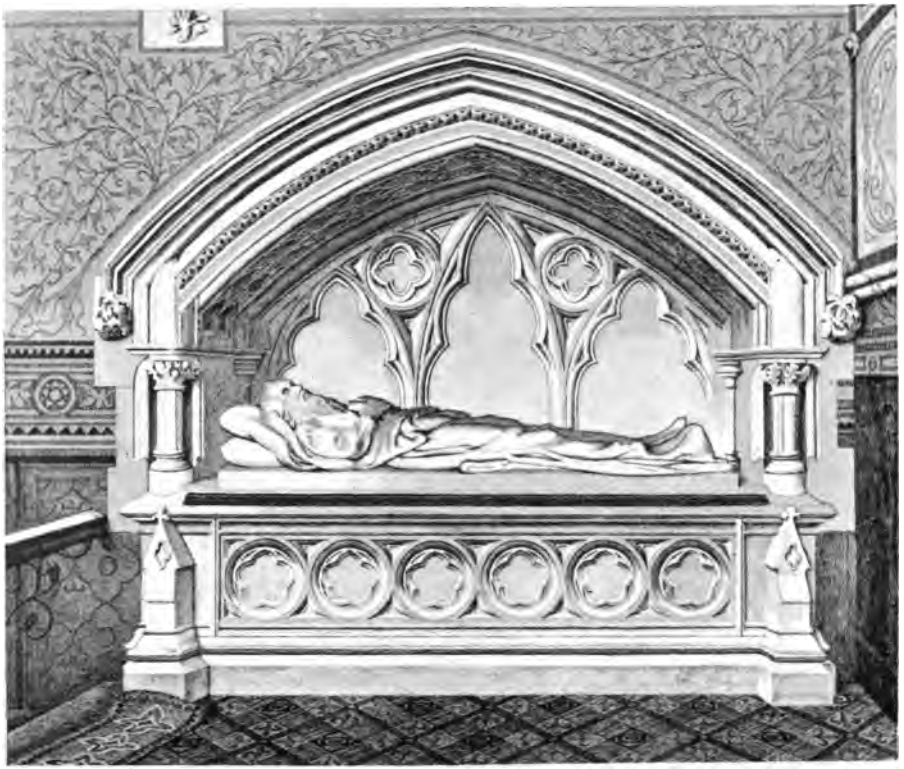
"To the memory of the most worthy and my ever esteemed Joseph Farell, Esq., this token of love and friendship. Willm Turner, D.D.D. 1778."

"Ye who revere celestial friendship's name,
Who boast her influence, and who feel her flame,
Oh! if from early youth one friend you've loved
Whom fair affection chose, and taste approv'd;
If you have felt what anguish rends the heart,
When such, so known, so lov'd, for ever part,
Approach! for you the mourner rears this stone
To sooth your sorrows, and record his own."

Dying here, and buried in the Cathedral yard at Bristol, he was succeeded by his nephew John Penrose Seymour, whose eldest son, the Rev. George Turner Seymour, the builder of Tyntesfield, as already stated, sold this property to George Gibbs, Esq., cousin of William Gibbs, Esq., the subsequent owner of both, and re-builder of Tyntesfield. George Gibbs dying without issue, Belmont passed in reversion to George Lewis Monck Gibbs, who sold it to his uncle. The central portion of the house, which was a commodious and substantial one, has been deprived of its floors, furnished with a glazed roof, and turned into a racquet-court, while its rooms in either wing remain available for residential purposes.

FAMILY OF GIBBS.

William Gibbs, Esq., purchaser of Tyntesfield in 1844, and founder of the Somerset family, was born at Madrid, 22nd May, 1790, second son of Antony Gibbs, a Spanish merchant, by Dorothea-Barnetta his wife, daughter of William Hucks of Knaresborough, Esq. He was partner in the firm of Antony Gibbs & Sons, and head of the house in 1842—1875; a munificent benefactor of the English Church, of which he was a devoted son, building at his own cost the magnificent Chapel of Keble College, Oxford; the Church and vicarage of St. Michael, Exeter; the Church of St. Michael, Paddington [for the most part]; the Church of Flaxley, co. Gloucester; the vicarage of Exwick, and the Chapel at Cowley, both in co. Devon. He contributed largely to the restoration of Exeter Cathedral, and of many parish churches, of which Backwell was one; he was patron of the benefices of Clyst St. George and Exwick, co. Devon, and Stow-nine-churches, co. Northampton. He married, August 1st, 1839, at Flaxley, Matilda Blanche, daughter of Sir Thomas Crawley-Boevy of Flaxley Abbey, Bart., and by her, who died September 22nd, 1887,



MONUMENT OF WILLIAM GIBBS IN THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL, EXETER.

and was buried at Wraxall, had issue as below. He died here, April 3rd, 1875, and was buried at Wraxall. Inscriptions to his memory in the parish church will be noted under that heading; his name and that of his wife being also commemorated on the table of benefactors in Keble College Chapel, and in the Church of St. Michael, Paddington.

At St. Michael's Church, Exeter, beneath a handsome recessed tomb in the north wall of the sanctuary, bearing his full-length recumbent effigy, covered with a sheet and clasping a Bible, is the following: "William Gibbs, a merchant of London, but by parentage and affection a man of Devon, in his life did many good works for the love of Christ, as elsewhere, so especially in the city of Exeter. One such work—the erection of the Church of SS. Michael and All Angels for the use of the poor of the neighbourhood—is here recorded by his widow and surviving children, to the end that the remembrance of his loving-kindness and piety may not pass away."

There are busts of his wife and himself at Tyntesfield by Macdonald, and portraits there by Sir William Boxall, and one in Keble College Hall by W. Richmond, R.A., a replica of which is at Barrow Court.

His children were—

I. Dorothea Harriet, born June 12th, 1840.

II. Antony Gibbs, born December 10th, 1841, of Exeter College, Oxford; M.A., 1869; High Sheriff of Somerset, 1888; Deputy-Lieutenant, 1889. With his brother he gave to Keble College its hall and library: is of Charlton and Tyntesfield, to both of which he has made large additions, and has splendidly restored his Parish Church of Wraxall. He is patron of his father's benefices, and of Alphington, co. Devon; Otterbourne, co. Southampton;

Flax Bourton, and North Newton, co. Somerset; and a benefactor to King's College, Taunton. He married at St. Michael's, Paddington, 22nd June, 1872, Janet Louisa, eldest daughter of John Louis Merivale, Esq., and has issue—

1. George Abraham, born July 6th, 1873; educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford; B.A., 1897. Captain North Somerset Yeomanry, and now of the Imperial Yeomanry.
2. Antony Hubert, born September 18th, 1874; educated at Eton and Trinity Hall, Cambridge; B A., 1897. North Somerset Yeomanry. Married at Burrington, co. Somerset, October 18th, 1899, Mary Mercy, eldest daughter of Evan Henry Llewellyn of Langford Court, Esq., M.P.
3. Albinia Rose, born March 31st, 1876; married at Wraxall, December 2nd, 1899, Richard Alexander Bennett, Esq.
4. William, born November 20th, 1877; educated at Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford; B.A., 1899. 7th Hussars.
5. John Evelyn, born December 22nd, 1879; educated at Eton and Sandhurst. Coldstream Guards.
6. Anstice Catharine, born September 12th, 1881.
7. Louis Merivale, born April, 1883; died May 1st, 1884; buried at Wraxall.
8. Eustace Lyle, born March 10th, 1885; educated at Eton.
9. Janet Blanche, born April 15th, 1887.
10. Lancelot Merivale, born December 23rd, 1889.

III. Alice Blanche, born October 27th, 1843; married at

Wraxall, August 16th, 1866, the Rev. Alfred Gurney, Vicar of St. Barnabas, Pimlico, and had issue. Died March 12th, 1871; buried at Wraxall.

IV. William, born January 14th, 1846; died unmarried June 11th, 1869; buried at Wraxall.

V. George Abraham, born March 25th, 1848; educated at Christ Church, Oxford; died unmarried at Kingston, Jamaica, February 23rd, 1870; buried at Wraxall.

VI. Henry Martin, born May 30th, 1850; educated at Clare College, Cambridge; a benefactor, with his brother Antony, to Keble College, Oxford, to Lancing College, Sussex, and to King's College, Taunton; munificent restorer of the Parish Church of Barrow Gurney; patron of the benefice, and purchaser of Barrow Court; married at Lindfield, co. Sussex, June 22nd, 1882, Emily Anna, daughter of the Ven. William Bruere Otter, Archdeacon of Lewes, and has issue. High Sheriff of Somerset, 1897.

1. William Otter, born September 13th, 1883; educated at Eton.
2. Noel Martin, born December 25th, 1884; educated at Radley and Eton.
3. Francis Antony Woodard, born December 17th, 1885; educated at Eton.
4. Roland Vicary, born March 16th, 1887; educated at Eton.
5. Matilda Blanche, born November 20th, 1888; died January 14th, 1889; buried at Barrow Gurney.
6. Guy Melvil, born December 15th, 1889.
7. Ralph Crawley-Boevy, born July 24th, 1891.
8. Lionel Cyril, born February 15th, 1893.
9. Mary Albinia, born November 5th, 1894.

VII. Albinia Anne, born June 7th, 1853; died unmarried, April 17th, 1874; buried at Wraxall.

The lineage of the family may be briefly stated as follows: Seated in co. Devon temp. Edward III., at Fenton (now Venton), in the parish of Dartington, John Gibbes was Mayor of Exeter in 1394, near to which city Clyst St. George became the 'nidus' of his race. Here, in 1525, John Gybbe had a property called Pytte, still belonging to Mr. Gibbs of Tyntesfield. From him the descent is continuous to Abraham Gibbs of Topsham, whose sons, establishing banking houses in Naples, Genoa, and Palermo, laid the foundations of the prosperity of their family. His grandson, George Abraham Gibbs, had issue by Anne his wife, daughter and co-heir of Anthony Vicary of Exeter, with other sons and daughters, Sir Vicary Gibbs, Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, who died in 1820; George Gibbs of Redland, Bristol, who died in 1818; and Antony Gibbs of Malaga, Cadiz, and Exeter, founder, in 1808, of the house of 'Antony Gibbs & Sons,' of London. Sir Vicary left no male issue; his brother George an only son, who was of Belmont, as already mentioned; his brother Antony three sons—George Henry, father of Henry Hucks Gibbs, created Baron Aldenham 1896; William of Tyntesfield; and the Rev. Joseph, incumbent of Clifton-Hampden, whose widow inherited Belmont, and passed it to her son George Louis Monck, who sold it to his uncle, as above stated. A full account of the family is given in Burke's Peerage, under 'Aldenham.'[156]

[156] In the libraries of Tyntesfield and Barrow Court are copies of a carefully-compiled pedigree of the Gibbs family, from the accomplished pen of the Lord Aldenham, F.S.A., its head, privately printed in 1891, and illustrated by etchings of seats and monuments.

WRAXALL CHURCH (INTERIOR).

From a Photograph by W. H. BUDGETT, Esq.

THE PARISH CHURCH.

The parish church of Wraxall, dedicated in honour of "All Saints," is beautifully situated, at half height, upon the southern slope of the range of wooded hills which extends from the Avon at Clifton to the sea at Clevedon, and whether viewed from a nearer or further distance, or approached more closely through its handsome lich-gate on the east, is an imposing object,[157] conveying an impression of solidity and massiveness, its strongly-buttressed tower, a conspicuous feature in the scenery, and twin sentinel with that of Backwell across the valley, guarding and consecrating the intervening plain.

The oaken lich-gate, with high-pitched roof and open Perpendicular tracery, rests upon a basement of stone, and gives access to the spacious[158] and carefully-tended burial ground, dominated by its noble churchyard cross, seen to much advantage against the dark foliage of a venerable yew of unknown age. The cross stands upon a calvary of four deep octagonal steps, the lower one having a hollow drip moulding. The square socket, hewn out of a single block, is exceedingly massive, resting upon an octagonal plinth with projecting angles, four of them with dowel holes, perhaps to receive sculpture. The shaft, a monolith octagonal and tapering, has been raised to its original height, and now again supports its head, a re-construction from ancient fragments, with the sacred monogram in its centre, and of suitable 15th century design.[159]

[157] Visited by the Somerset Archæol. Soc. in 1881, it was then described by Mr. Ferrey as 'one of the finest' in this part of the county.—Proceedings, XXVIII. 42.

[158] A large addition to its area, the gift of Mr. Antony Gibbs, was consecrated on All Saints' day, Nov. 1st, 1894, by Bishop Kennion of Bath and Wells, his first episcopal act in his diocese.

[159] For a description, vignette, and plan of the cross, see Pooley's Crosses of Somerset, p. 83.

Another cross—the village or market one—stood just outside the lich-gate, where a fine elm tree, called the cross tree, occupies its site, growing out of the bevelled plinth and basement of the original calvary which supported it. Here formerly stood the whipping-post and the stocks.

Against the north-east wall of the churchyard a huge block of unhewn conglomerate, ten feet in height, bears the following inscription upon a bronze plate at its feet: 'THIS STONE WAS ERECTED BY THE INHABITANTS OF THIS PARISH TO COMMEMORATE THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ACCESSION OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN VICTORIA, 1837—1897. GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.'

Further westward the gravestone of Elizabeth Codrington, daughter and heir of Samuel Gorges, hereinafter described, is built into the wall, with sundry small remnants of broken tombstones and architectural fragments, amongst which may be noticed a headless figure of the Holy Father supporting the crucifix, and a portion of a very narrow coffin-lid with trefoiled termination to its cross. Here is the bier-house, erected for the reception of the parochial hand-bier, behind which, on the other side of the wall, are stable buildings, now belonging to Wraxall Court (or Lodge), but previously used for the reception of the horses of parishioners who rode or drove to attend the services. The fine Perpendicular eastern windows of the chancel and south chapel, the former high in the wall to give room for the reredos beneath; the heavily-moulded gables and parapets of the leaded roofs, with their floriated crosses; the ornate pinnacled sanctbell cot on the east gable of the nave; the exceptionally lofty Early English southern porch, are all important features of the external view of the church. But the glory of the whole is the

solid mass of the western tower,[160] with its four graduated stages of masonry, its blocked and perforated two-light windows, angle buttresses, ornamental parapet, and handsome pinnacles. Blank niches, recently re-constructed, interrupt the carved cornice on three sides of the tower, and desiderate their statues, while the fourth, an ancient one facing westward, retains its original life-size figure, royally crowned and habited, with the orb of sovereignty in his hand, possibly that of Henry VI. or Edward IV. A clock must have been added about 1730,[161] when Colonel John Codrington was one of the subscribers to it. The existing one is of more modern date.

The ground-plan comprises a chancel, with commodious vestry on the north and chapels on either side, nave, north aisle, south porch, and western tower, the whole a fine example of a typical Somerset Church of 15th century work. As usual, we discover its earliest feature in its southern doorway, the only remaining relic of an original Norman Church. First Pointed details in the chancel, north aisle, and south porch point to a rebuilding at that period, while another, or else a considerable enlargement, must have taken place in the 15th century, to which period the tower and all the roofs and windows belong.

The chancel, which is out of centre with the nave, had been credited with the date of the Early English period, on the strength of a double piscina and a priest's door of that style in its south wall; but these interesting objects are found to have been insertions in a wall of much later construction, built from the

[160] It is said that King George IV., a boy guest of Sir Warwick Bamfylde, used to play fives against the north side of the tower, a popular practice at that time, and with some difficulty interdicted by the rector.

A large elder-bush, self sown, and growing out of the tower beneath one of the belfry windows, had become so vigorous as to injure the masonry, and required special scaffolding for its removal about 1883 or '84.

[161] Collinson's Somerset, III. 161.

débris of a previous building bearing evidence of having been destroyed by fire, and largely composed of fragments of windows and other portions of previously-used masonry. In the late complete restoration, carried out by the munificence of Mr. Antony Gibbs of Tyntesfield, under the superintendence of the late Sir Arthur Blomfield, it was found necessary to rebuild from the ground the eastern and southern walls, and to re-case the northern one, so that the entire chancel is practically new: and very fine it is, a grand oak roof of excellent proportion and design, with tracery in its arched beams, which are brought down below the wall-plate and rest upon well-carved stone corbels, attracting immediate attention. The floor of the sacrarium, where the altar has an elevation of four steps, is laid with small tesseræ of fine Roman mosaic, and has an excellent effect. The eastern window, set high in the wall, so as to afford fitting space for the carved stone reredos beneath, is of five lights, a reproduction, with improvements in its tracery, of one which preceded it.[162] The reredos is a simple but beautiful sculpture in Bath stone. In its central compartment, beneath a triple-pinnacled canopy, is 'The Transfiguration,' a somewhat unusual subject in this position. Upon the mountain top stands the Saviour, His arms outstretched, His three favoured Apostles kneeling beneath, while from clouds on either side emerge the heads of Moses and Elias. This is flanked by six cinquefoiled niches, three on each side, with crocketed canopies and open tracery, containing statuettes, those of SS. Andrew and Paul nearest to the centre, having behind them SS. Veronica and

[162] Collinson mentions (Vol. III., p. 159) that there were in his time (1741), with other armorial shields recently restored in the glazing of this window, one which he described as 'Or, five falconer's gloves pendant ppr.' No such shield being known, it is conjectured that he mistook it for, 'Five wounds gutteé,' representing an ancient Guild of the B. Sacrament, and this identical shield, removed from hence, may be seen in the parvise over the south porch.

Etheldreda; in the outer niches, SS. Clement and Augustine of Hippo. The re-table is a chamfered slab of black marble backed by Algerian onyx, and supports an altar-cross of latten and silver, its central and terminal plaques of the latter metal, with the Holy Lamb and the Evangelistic symbols in bas-relief, its shaft, and those of the accompanying vases and candlesticks, having bosses of tabernacle-work. Against the wall on either side of the altar is a mural panel of fine Roman mosaic, into which are introduced the entwined initials A. S., for 'All Saints.' The altar, of massive oak, is vested with a richly-embroidered frontal. The side walls of the chancel are faced with yellow ashlar, to which bands of a redder tint give variety of colour. The embrasure of the two-light southern window of the Sacrarium, lengthened for the purpose, forms a priest's sedile, in the eastern jamb of which has been adroitly contrived, within cinquefoiled arches on the north and west, an elegant piscina with six-foiled basin.[163] The window, with another farther to the west, also of two lights, are re-insertions. The original Early English priest's door, with its external roll and hood mouldings, among the best details of the church, retains its position, but the piscina of the same period has been removed into the adjoining Charlton Chapel. All the fittings, altar railings, choir stalls, and desks are of oak of the best description, the work of skilled carvers. Handsome brass lamps, those within the Sacrarium more ornate than the others, are pendant from the roof. An arch on the north, ranging with those in the nave arcade on that side, admits to the chapel beneath the organ, and another of wider span to the Charlton Chapel on the south.

The chancel arch is of First Pointed date, wide and lofty, but

[163] Of one of the chancel windows, we know not which, Agnes, relict of Thomas Gorges, in her Will, 1419, makes mention thus: "Item lego in auxilium reparationis unius fenestri (*sic*) in cancellâ ecclesiæ Omnium Sanctorum de Wroxhale in comitatu Somerset, quam quidam fenestram Rectores ecclesiæ predictæ fecisse debuissent, xx$^{s.}$"

quite plain, without pillars, its mouldings carried to the ground. It is spanned by one of the finest of modern rood-screens, a splendid specimen of oak carving, its overhanging loft projecting into the nave, and carried across the adjoining north aisle, where, still further extended, it supports the organ, a fine instrument in a noble case. The ancient rood staircase in the north wall, with its original upper and lower doorways, has been utilised for the organist. From the chapel beneath, which contains the monuments of the Gibbs family, their burial-place being under the adjoining vestry, there is a door of access thereto. There is no vestige of an altar. The east window of three lights is elevated, to give room for the roof of the vestry. The arch hence into the chancel is slightly differenced from the rest of the arcade to which it belongs, having had its western capital pared away and carved with faces emitting foliage.

The corresponding chapel on the south, communicating with the nave by a tall stone doorway from which a large trefoiled hagioscope commands the chancel, and by a wide adjoining arch spanned by a beautifully carved oak screen, another similar one separating it from the chancel, was until 1894 very small and almost transeptal, its proportions indicated by the ogee-arched piscina in its southern wall, the trefoiled one with double basin further to the east having been, as already mentioned, brought from the chancel. Known as the Charlton Chapel, it is said to have been re-roofed in 1754 by Alderman Mugleworth of Charlton House, an entry in the parish books confering its use upon his family for ever! It has now been considerably extended to the east. Its new oak roof rests upon stone corbels of the date 1851, brought from the chancel, and carved with angels bearing the legend, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Which was, and is, and is to come." It is lighted by three three-light

Perpendicular windows, the two southern ones of late date and nearly square-headed, the eastern one new and of good design. A tiny trefoiled opening high in the western wall enabled the priest in the parvise to look into the church from thence. Arranged and fitted as a 'Lady Chapel,' for use at early or week-day services, it supports upon a tiled and stone-paved footpace the oaken altar-table which, placed in the chancel at its restoration in 1851, has been there superseded by a larger and more appropriate one, and a reredos of beautiful design in carved oak, representing in its central panel the Annunciation, with three canopied figures of saints on either side. Its walls are lined with an oaken dado of plain and linen-pattern panels, while upon the cresting of its northern screen, which has taken the place of the handsome metal one previously there, are shields intended to bear the coats of arms of the successive owners of Charlton.

On right hand
S. John
S. Augustine
S. Jerome.
On left hand
S. Ambrose
S. Gregory
S. Luke

The nave has a 15th century roof, formed by a closely-set series of moulded timbers with parcel-gilt bosses, twenty-seven in number, carved with knots of foliage and other devices, the central one a quaint conceit of eight human faces in which eight eyes do double duty; upon another is the 'Agnus Dei' within a ring borne by an angel; while a third has a human face with foliage springing from its under lip.[164] The embattled wall-plate rests upon stone corbels, carved with male and female heads, many of the latter wearing horned head-dresses, the former high caps, a king, a queen, and two bishops among them. The entire floor, which was honeycombed with graves, some of them close to the surface, has been carefully concreted, and is paved with stones, upon which the seats are raised upon curbs and floors of wood. There were but few vaults, one being that of the Lucas family. Near the west end an arcade of five bays, with handsome arches,

[164] Very similar designs form tail-pieces in 'William Wyrcester redivivus; or, Notes of Church Architecture in Bristol, 1823,' pp. 17, 24, 33.

bold pillars and capitals, separates the nave from its north aisle, against the most western unengaged pillar of which stands the font—a good Third Pointed octagon with tracery upon its sides, with the unusual but useful adjunct of a small stone desk supported by an angel, and bracketed out from the adjoining column.[165] The font cover, the seats and poppyheads in nave and aisle, and the pulpit, all of oak, are of the date 1851, when an important restoration was effected at the cost of William Gibbs of Tyntesfield, Esq., in accordance with the best professional skill of the day. The pulpit, removed from the southern to the northern pier of the chancel arch, has been reduced in height, and lightened by the perforation of its panelled tracery. An oaken lectern of delicate workmanship, the gift of the Rector, flanks it on the opposite side. Here, too, hangs the rope of the sanct-bell, which occupies the pinnacled 'cot' already mentioned upon the gable above. A three-light Perpendicular window near the west end is the only one in the nave. Near it are the benefaction tables, and the doorway of the intramural stone staircase of twenty steps, leading to the parvise.

Of the considerable alteration of the northern aisle, and possibly of the southern wall, of the original Early English Church at the beginning of the 15th century we have interesting cotemporary evidence in the will of Agnes, relict of Thomas Gorges, Esq., 1419.[166] While the walls were allowed to remain, their windows were superseded by the later ones which are still in existence; but during the last exhaustive restoration the jambs and sills of the former disclosed themselves in the eastern, western, and northern walls, clearly proving that no change had been made

[165] There is a similar arrangement at Beckley, Oxon, engraved in Architect. Antiq. in the Neighbourhood of Oxford, p. 207.

[166] "Item lego in auxilium reparacionis unius ylæ vocatæ le Northyle in ecclesiâ Omnium Sanctorum de Wroxhale predictâ per parochianos de novo fabricandâ xl$^{s.}$"

in the Early English ground-plan, and that the church of that period survives upon its ancient lines.[167] Two shallow-arched recesses of little interest, perhaps intended for tombs, low down in the north wall, and the jamb of a small doorway to the west of the upper one of the rood staircase point to some unexplained alterations of an earlier date. The aisle has a good timber roof of low pitch, is floored with wood blocks, seated with oak benches like the nave, and lighted by good 15th century three-light windows, of which three, with a doorway of the same period now disused, are in its northern and one in its western wall.

The south porch, of exceptional interest, excellent masonry, and unusual height, ranging with that of the nave, is a remainder of the older First Pointed church, to which it supplied in its upper story a priest's chamber, 12 feet square, with strong timber roof and doorway, lighted by small trefoiled openings on the north, east, and south. In one of these is the figure of an angel in long flowing white robe with standing collar and apparels, bearing the shield of the 'Jesus Mass,' removed from the east window, 'Argent, five wounds gutteé,' the pendant goutes mistaken for the fingers of falconer's gloves, as already explained. Below the floor of this chamber was one of the curious porch galleries not uncommon hereabouts, but elsewhere unknown, of which an uninjured example fortunately exists at Weston in Gordano. Here it has been removed, but a second stone staircase of nine steep steps, with upper and lower doorways, which give access to it, its trefoiled niche over the inner door of the church,[168] and a small angle bracket for a lamp, indisputably attest its existence, which is the more remarkable because in this instance only, as far

[167] An architectural plan of these details is preserved at the rectory.

[168] The figure in the porch was probably that of the B. Virgin. Bequests for its maintenance, sometimes of wedding-rings, were not unusual. Wells Wills, pp. 17, 76, 179.

as I know, it was accompanied by a priest's chamber, as already described, both within the same porch. It is well known that large portions of our occasional services, notably those of Holy Baptism and Holy Matrimony, were directed to be said in the porch; but if, as has been surmised, the local prevalence of porch galleries points to the introduction in late pre-Reformation times of some special "cult," then the earlier date of this example seems opposed to that theory. The inner Norman doorway, flanked by a circular column on either side; the large and handsome external doorway of First Pointed date, with circular pillars and hood moulding with terminal heads, and the large stoup with quatrefoiled basin found blocked in the north-east angle, but now opened and repaired, are additional features of interest.

The western tower, approached from the nave by a plain but lofty arch, has a Perpendicular western window of three lights, a staircase in its north-eastern angle, and a good western doorway. There is a fine peal of eight bells, of which one bears the name of Sir Edward Gorges, High Sheriff of the County in 1608, and buried here 1624: three record that of their founder, Edward Bilbie, and the others that of their munificent donor, Antony Gibbs of Tyntesfield, Esq., and the following mottoes :—

1705. Thoft my voice it is but small,
I 'll be herd amongst you all.

1887. Domine salvam fac Reginam.

1894. Nos Deo laudem dabimus magnam.

,, Det Deus pacem nobis diurnam.

,, In terrâ Deo tollimus gloriam.

,, Nobis æternam det Deus vitam.

THE MONUMENTS.

The monuments, which are numerous and interesting, will best be described by themselves.

Beneath the floor of the chancel was the burial-place of the family of Gorges, for nearly five centuries lords of this manor; their memorials however, with the exception of those described below, have been removed or destroyed.

The most ancient is a very thick sandstone ledger, taken hence and relaid at the east end of the north aisle, from whence it was relegated in 1893 to the base of the western tower, where it is now to be seen. Its inscription [the letters of which have been deepened and refilled with black pigment], rudely incised within marginal border lines, is as follows: "+ Here lyethe Syr Tybbot Gorges knyght and Baneret of whos soule God have mercy. Amen. ɪ4?4." There is some difficulty about the date: the second figure is 4, represented as half an 8; the third, which looks like 2, is really 6 reversed; the fourth is 7. It is without doubt the gravestone of Sir Theobald Gorges, knight of the shire in 1432, lieutenant of the Castle of Rouen 1447, and lord of this manor 1414 to 1467. Collinson gives the date as 1468, which is manifestly incorrect. Utilised at a later period to receive a record of another burial, it bears across its centre—

"GORGES INTERRD . . . OF SEP."

Other memorials mentioned by Collinson as existing in his time, 1791,[169] have entirely disappeared. They were 'those of Grace, wife of Edward Gorges, Esq., who died September 9th, 1698, and Dorothy their daughter, who died January 29th, 1693: Edward Gorges, Esq., interred the 8th day of September, 1708': also of 'the Rev. William Jones, B.C.L., Prebendary of Wells and Rector of Wraxall, who died 1609, and Margaret his wife, daughter of Edmund Gorges, Esq., who died 1582.'

[169] Collinson's Somerset, III. 159.

Hence was also exhumed a large yellow ledger-stone, now built into the churchyard wall, north-east of the chancel, where, being of friable oolite, it is gradually succumbing to the action of the elements. It is hardly inferior in interest to that already described, being the memorial of the last survivor of the Gorges family, who carried its estates and this manor, in 1709, in marriage to her husband, Colonel John Codrington of Dodington, co. Gloucester, Esq.,[170] M.P. for Bath 1710–34, after the death of her father, Samuel Gorges, Esq., its last male representative, in 1693. The armorial shield and inscription were fortunately examined soon after its exhumation, the former bearing upon a lozenge within a sunken oval two coats of Codrington—Quarterly: 1 and 4, '*Argent a fesse embattled, counter-embattled sable fretty gules between three lions passant of the last*'; 2 and 3, '*Vert, upon a bend argent three roses barbed and seeded gules, in sinister chief a dexter hand couped at the wrist of the second.*' Upon an inescutcheon—Quarterly: 1 and 4, '*Argent, a gurges*[171] *azure;* 2 and 3, '*Lozengy, or and azure, a chevron gules,*' the ancient allusive and later coats of the Gorges family. The inscription seems to have been this: "Here lieth the body of Elizabeth Codrington, y^e^ wife of John Codrington of Dodington, in the county of Gloucester, Esq. She departed this life February 1^o^th, 1740, aged 51. Also the bodies of two of their daughters—Agnes, their second, who died July 30, 1715; Rachel, their third, who died the 18th day of February, 1717,[172] this . . ."

[170] Barrett's Bristol, 304.

[171] The gurges, usually represented as a succession of rings occupying the entire field, has in this instance but one curve springing from the fesse point, rising to the middle chief, and discharging itself at the dexter base of the shield; the tinctures do not appear upon the tombstone.

[172] Memoir of the Family of Codrington. Brist. and Gloucest. Archæol. Soc., XXI. 331. There were two other daughters—Elizabeth, the eldest, who died September 27th, 1735, æt. 25, and Jane, the youngest, eventually heiress of both her parents, who married in 1742 Sir Richard Warwick Bampfylde, Bart., and dying 1789, lies buried in a vault, now filled up, under the north chancel stalls.

On the north side of the sacrarium, within a recess in the wall—too small unfortunately for its purpose—constructed in 1851, during a restoration of the church to receive it, is a fine altar-tomb of stone, removed from its original position further westward in the chancel, and bearing the full-length recumbent effigies of Sir Edmund Gorges, Kt., and the first of his three wives, the Lady Anne Howard, daughter of John, 1st Duke of Norfolk, K.G., slain at Bosworth Field. The fine series of armorial shields which surround the tomb is, wholly on the north side and partially at the east and west ends concealed from view, those on the south side alone being visible. Their heraldic bearings, incorrectly described by Collinson,[173] and at a subsequent period further confused by an unskilled painter, may be taken as follows. On either side are three floridly sculptured panels, the central one of which contains a heavily-mantelled achievement, surmounted by a knight's helmet with visor nearly closed, and upon a wreath the Gorges' crest, '*a greyhound's head* (in this case *affronté*) *ppr.*' The shield is—Quarterly: 1, '*Lozengy or and azure a chevron gules*,' Gorges; 2, '*Argent, on a chief gules three bezants*,' Russell of Dyrham; 3, '*Gules, a lion rampant ermine*,' Oldhall; 4, '*Argent, a chevron* (*sable*) *between three gads*[174] *erminés*,' Englowes. This is flanked by two side panels, each having a kneeling angel bearing a single shield, those on the north 'Oldhall' and 'Englowes,' those on the south 'Gorges' and 'Russell,' as already described. At the east end are two shields, the southern one suspended by a strap from the neck of '*a lion sejant regardant*—Quarterly: 1, '*Argent, three trivets sable*,' Trivet; 2, Gorges, as before; 3, '*Argent, a chevron engrailed sable, a martlet for difference*,' Holbeach; 4, Russell, as before. The northern

[173] We have no alternative but to take on his authority the shields upon the north side, which we cannot see, and of which we have no other record. Of those which are visible, on the south, we know that he wrongly describes one as 'Mowbray' which is really 'Oldhall.'

[174] Collinson calls them 'caters on the dice.'

shield, suspended from the neck of '*an eagle, or falcon rising*'—Quarterly: Gorges, Russell, Oldhall, and Englowes, as before. At the west end are two more shields, the southern one, supported by two lions sejant gardant, '*vaireé azure and argent*,' Beauchamp of Lillesdon; impaling '*Argent, two bendlets nebuleé sable*,' Hankford, or Stapledon an heiress of Hankford. The northern one, supported by two wild men or wodehouses, 'Gorges,' and 'Russell,' one over the other, impaling '*Gules, a bend aryent between six fleurs de lys or*,' Hampton.[175] The effigies recline in the attitude of prayer, that of the lady, perhaps as of superior rank to her husband, on his right hand. He is bareheaded, with long flowing hair, his head upon his wreathed and mantelled helmet, which is without a crest, his body clad in very plain and tight-fitting plate armour without any indication of mail at the neck or elsewhere. He wears a plain gold ring upon the little finger of his bare right hand, a chain of large rings round his neck, a strong belt across his body supporting his sword on the left and his dagger on the right side: a little cape, perhaps of leather, lies over his shoulders. His breast, arms, thighs, knees, and legs are completely encased in plate; his feet in jointed round-toed sollerets, without spurs, rest upon a couchant greyhound; the lion which we should expect to find there, being transferred to his lady. Her head reclining upon two cushions has a kennel-shaped head-dress with lappets on either side and a veil hanging down behind, concealing the hair. The pleating of her square-cut under-garment is seen at her neck, beneath the long robe with open hanging sleeves which falls thence in severe folds to her feet, which in very commonplace shoes rest upon the couchant lion of which she has deprived her husband. She wears a plain

[175] It is remarkable that upon this, her own tomb, the arms of Lady Anne Howard do not occur, while those of her husband, with the alliances of his family, are repeated with unnecessary frequency.

gold ring upon the fourth finger of her bare right hand, a chain of interlaced circles supporting a pectoral cross at her neck, a cord with rose and tassel depending from her waist. Both figures, youthful in face and appearance, are completely if not very successfully coloured, and suggest the probability of the erection of the tomb by the husband soon after the death of his first wife.

Upon a marble slab over the doorway of the vestry is the following, surmounted by a coat of arms:—'*Argent, on a bend engrailed sable three fleurs de lys of the field,*' Holt; and his crest, '*a cubit arm erect, holding pheon.*' "Hic tandem laboribus defunctus requiescit una cum conjuge Avicia [nec enim par conjunctissimum mors ipsa dirimit] venerabilis vir THOMAS HOLT, S.S. THEOLOGIÆ PROFESSOR, ECCLIÆ CATHLIS WELLEN CHANCELLARIUS & CANONICUS RESIDENTIARIUS;[176] hujus ECCLIÆ parochialis rector Irenarches seu Justiciarius ad Pacem in comitatu Somersettensi Rerum humanarum vices aliquoties expertus et fata ECCLIÆ ANGLICANÆ bis pessundatæ bis instauratæ bis victæ bis triumphantis fortunam eodem semper vultu excepit seu blandientem seu minantem. Vir prisca fide, omnibus æquus ac justus sero naturæ quod debuit persolvit, anno ætatis suæ 80° 10° calendis Aprilis, A.D. 1688. Obiit Avicia 4° calendis Februariis 1687, anno ætatis 70°."

On the same wall, upon a handsomely bordered oval slab of

[176] This good man, bravely remaining at his post of duty at Wells during the outrages of the Civil War, when the fabric of the Cathedral was desecrated and horses were stabled in it, insisted upon holding the normal Chapter, though he sat alone in it; and so on July 1st, 1685, in the presence of Nicholas Nebbett, Notary Public, adjourned it to that day four weeks, confidently hoping that in the meantime the nefarious rebellion would be stamped out. "Neque ilium fefellit ipsius dignissimi Præsidis votum, quippe quod faustus ille intermedius sextus dies Julii apud Weston Zoyland in hoc comitatu Rebellionis finem et rebellibus excidium attulit, sic que ad ecclesiæ curam contra perduellium arma et odium, contra portas inferni stabilitæ in tuto jam redire licet. Deus, Deus nobis hæc otia fecit." —Extract from the minutes of the Chapter of Wells, 1685. Dean Plumptre's Life of Bishop Ken, I. 215.

white marble: "To the beloved and revered memory of James Vaughan, fifty-five years Rector of Wraxall. Constrained by the love of Christ and supported by His Spirit, he devoted his powers to the good of man, and relying in humble but firm faith upon those sure promises of God in Christ which he had so fearlessly and affectionately proclaimed, he entered into his rest on the 5th of June, 1857, in the eighty-third year of his age and the sixtieth of his ministry. Also of Sarah his wife. They lived together fifty-eight years, united by the same faith and hope, and she followed him in the same path to glory on the 21st January, in the 1860th year of her Lord and the eighty-first of her pilgrimage."

Upon a small plate of coloured brass below the last: "Sarah Emma Vaughan sleeps in Jesus, waiting in perfect faith for the return in glory of her risen Lord. Born 13th September, 1812; died 5th January, 1879."

Upon a diamond-shaped brass plate set in a carved alabaster frame, and incised with an ornamented cross with quatrefoiled terminations: "SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF EDWARD PROTHERO VAUGHAN, M.A., OF BALLIOL COLLEGE, OXFORD, RECTOR OF WRAXALL, YOUNGEST SON OF THE LATE REV. JAMES VAUGHAN. HE WAS CURATE OF WEST HARPTREE, SOMERSET, 1834; OF SPEEN, BERKSHIRE, 1835; AND OF WRAXALL, 1836 TO 1857, WHEN HE SUCCEEDED HIS FATHER AS RECTOR, AND AFTER A FAITHFUL AND LOVING MINISTRY FOR 55 YEARS IN THIS PARISH HE ENTERED INTO REST ON MAY 27TH, 1891, AGED 81. ALSO OF HARRIET, HIS WIFE, DAUGHTER OF THE REV. J. HENSMAN, INCUMBENT OF CLIFTON. BORN 10TH JULY, 1809; DIED 5TH MARCH, 1896. 'Them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him.'—1 THESS. iv. 14."

On the south chancel wall, upon a sunken brass plate: "IN LOVING MEMORY OF RICHARD VAUGHAN, SON OF THE REV. JAMES VAUGHAN, RECTOR OF THIS PARISH, WHO ENTERED INTO REST 26TH JULY, 1893, IN HIS NINETIETH

YEAR. HIS UNFAILING LOVE FOR THE CHURCH OF HIS CHILDHOOD WAS PROVED BY HIS REGULAR ATTENDANCE AS A WORSHIPPER FOR MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS, BY HIS ERECTING A CHAPEL OF EASE AT FAILAND, AND BY A LARGE BEQUEST TOWARDS AUGMENTING THE INCOME OF THE BENEFICE OF WRAXALL. 'Lord, I have loved the habitation of Thy house.'"

Upon another, surmounted by a star and the motto: 'Per lucem ad coronam.' 'To the glory of God and in loving memory of Emily Constance, eldest daughter of James Vaughan, Incumbent of Christ Church, Brighton, and Emily his wife. She was born on the Epiphany A.D. 1844, and following from life's earliest dawn the bright and morning Star, she walked her path of light until she entered into perfect day, July 1st, A.D. 1864.'

Upon another: 'Christi servitus vera libertas. To the glory of God, and in holy and loving memory of James Vaughan, Prebendary of Chichester, and for 48 years Incumbent of Christ Church, Brighton, third son of James Vaughan, former Rector of this Parish; born August 27th, A.D. 1805; entered into rest May 7th, 1889. His servants shall serve Him.'

Upon a brass plate beneath a stained window in the south wall of the chancel: 'In memory of Sibella, 4th daughter of George Abraham Gibbs, of Clyst St. George, co. of Devon, who died at Long Ashton, 25th December, 1841, aged 81, and was buried in this churchyard.'

Upon another: 'In memory of Anne, 2nd and youngest daughter of Antony Gibbs, who died at Belmont in this parish, 6th October, 1852, aged 55, and was buried here.'

Against the east wall of the north chapel, upon a brass plate upon an engraved slab of polished grey granite, in which is inserted a fine metal cross, with the Holy Lamb and the Evangelistic symbols: '+ To the glory of God and in loving memory of William Gibbs of Tyntesfield in this parish, who was born May 22nd, 1790, and entered into rest April 3rd, 1875. What

doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God? Also of Matilda Blanche Gibbs, wife of the above, and daughter of Sir T. Crawley-Boevey of Flaxley Abbey, Bart., who was born December 17th 1817, and entered into rest September 22nd, 1887. With Thy blessing let the house of Thy servants be blessed for ever.'

Upon the same wall, upon a plain quatrefoil of white marble bearing an embossed metal cross, set with crystals: '+ TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND IN SWEET MEMORY OF ALICE BLANCHE, WIFE OF ALFRED GURNEY, AND DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM AND MATILDA BLANCHE GIBBS OF TYNTESFIELD IN THIS PARISH, WHO WAS BORN OCTOBER 27TH, 1843, MARRIED AUGUST 16TH, 1866, AND DIED MARCH 12TH, 1871. REQUIESCAT IN PACE.'

Upon another similar one: '+ TO THE GLORY OF GOD, AND IN LOVING MEMORY OF ALBINIA ANNE GIBBS, DAUGHTER OF WILLIAM GIBBS AND MATILDA BLANCHE GIBBS OF TYNTESFIELD IN THIS PARISH, WHO WAS BORN ON THE 7TH DAY OF JUNE, A.D. 1853, AND DIED ON THE 17TH DAY OF APRIL, A.D. 1874. REQUIESCIT IN PACE.'

Upon the north wall of the same chapel, beneath a brass Latin cross, with the Holy Lamb and Evangelistic symbols as its centre and terminations, set in a slab of grey marble: 'IN LOVING MEMORY OF WILLIAM GIBBS, SECOND SON OF WILLIAM AND MATILDA BLANCHE GIBBS OF TYNTESFIELD IN THIS PARISH, WHO DIED JUNE 11TH, A.D. 1869, AGED 23 YEARS. ALSO OF GEORGE ABRAHAM GIBBS, THEIR THIRD SON, WHO DIED FEBRUARY 23RD, 1870, AT KINGSTON, JAMAICA, IN THE 22ND YEAR OF HIS AGE. HE GIVETH HIS BELOVED SLEEP.'

Upon the north wall of the north aisle, upon a brass plate, forming two intersecting triangles, with the Holy Lamb, Sacred

Monogram, and Evangelistic symbols in the corners: 'A grateful Parish to the memory of WILLIAM GIBBS of Tyntesfield and MATILDA BLANCHE his wife, 1888.'

In the borders of the two outer lights of the pattern window at the east end of the north chapel: '+ In memory of John Billingsley Seymour of Baliol College, Oxford, son of George Turner and Marianne Seymour, who died at Laybach in Illyria, where his remains are deposited, the 14th October, 1843, aged 21 years. In memory of George Alexander Seymour of King's College, Cambridge, eldest son of George Turner and Marianne Seymour, who died at Cambridge the 5th July, 1838, aged 21 years. His remains are deposited in King's College Chapel.'

Upon the north wall of the same, upon a marble tablet with coat of arms, '*Argent, a lion rampant sable*,' Mathew, 'In memory of WILLIAM MATHEW of this parish, gent, who died January 15th, 1781, aged 78. Also of ELIZABETH his wife, who died November 19th, 1781, aged 68.'

Against the north wall of the north aisle, upon an ornamental marble monument, with crocketed pyramidal head and the armorial shield—Quarterly: 1 and 4, '*Or, on a pile gules between six fleurs de lys azure three lions of England*'; 2 and 3, '*Gules, two wings conjoined in lure or*,' Seymour. Crest: *Out of a ducal coronet or a phœnix of the last issuing from flames ppr.* Motto: 'Foy pour devoir.' 'Sacred to the memory of George Penrose Seymour, Esq., late of Belmont in this Parish, one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for this County. He was indefatigable in the discharge of his official duties, learned in the laws of his country, and in judgment discerning, temperate, and just; he died much esteemed and lamented the 26th July, 1827, aged 64 years, whose remains are deposited in a vault beneath this tablet. Also in memory of Louisa Seymour, his widow, who departed this life the 18th of March, 1853, at Clifton, aged 87 years, very sincerely lamented by her family

and friends. Also in memory of Henry Cam Seymour, a major of the 23rd Regt. of Royal Welch Fusiliers, the youngest son of the above, who died to the great affliction of his widow and relatives at Clifton on the 5th of March, 1847, aged 44 years. Also of Mary, his wife, eldest daughter of the Rev. Andrew Daubeny, M.A., of Backwell, who died April 16th, 1887. "To me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. i. 21. Also in memory of the Rev. George Turner Seymour, L.L.B. of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, and late of Tyntesfield in this Parish, J.P., eldest son of George Penrose Seymour, Esq., who died the 14th of Oct., 1880, in the 89th year of his age. "Until the day dawn." 2 Pet. i. 19.'

Upon a tablet of black and white marble on the same wall: 'IN MEMORY OF CHARLOTTE CHAPMAN OF WRAXALL LODGE. SHE WAS THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THE LATE ANTHONY CHAPMAN OF GUNVILLE, ESQ., IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET, BY THE HONBLE. CHARLOTTE CARY, HIS SECOND WIFE. SHE DIED ON THE 23RD DAY OF MARCH, A.D. 1850, AGED 69. HER REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED IN THE ADJOINING CHURCHYARD. BLESSED ARE THOSE SERVANTS WHOM THE LORD WHEN HE COMETH SHALL FIND WATCHING. LUKE XII. 37.'

Upon another tablet, of white marble, on the same wall: 'IN MEMORY OF CATHARINE CHAPMAN, LATE OF WRAXALL LODGE. SHE WAS THE SECOND DAUGHTER OF ANTHONY CHAPMAN OF GUNVILLE, ESQ., IN THE COUNTY OF DORSET, AND THE HONBLE. CHARLOTTE CARY, HIS SECOND WIFE. SHE DIED NOV. 13TH, 1859, AGED 78. HER REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED IN THE ADJOINING CHURCHYARD. "COME UNTO ME ALL YE THAT LABOUR AND ARE HEAVY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST." MATT. XI. 28. ALSO OF JANE CHAPMAN, FORMERLY OF WRAXALL LODGE, YOUNGEST DAUGHTER OF THE ABOVE-NAMED ANTHONY CHAPMAN AND THE HONBLE. CHARLOTTE CARY HIS SECOND WIFE. SHE DIED DECEMBER 20TH, 1867, AGED 83. HER REMAINS ARE DEPOSITED IN THE ADJOINING CHURCHYARD. "THEM ALSO

WHICH SLEEP IN JESUS, WILL GOD BRING WITH HIM." I. THESS. IV. 14.

Upon a tablet of grey and white marble, upon the same wall: 'Near this place lie the remains of MARY, wife of ROBERT NEWTON of this parish, who died October 26th, 1821, aged 64 years. Also of the above ROBERT NEWTON, who died February 15th, 1837, aged 87 years.'

Upon a tablet of grey and yellow marble, surmounted by an urn: 'In memory of WALTER KING, ESQ., of Naish House in this parish, who died April 11th, 1792, aged 78 years. Also of MARY his wife, who died October 16th, 1787, aged 63.'

On the west wall of the north aisle, upon a tablet of grey and white marble with bas-relief of a seated female mourner holding a vase with a rosebush in it, a flower-wreathed urn above: 'Sacred to the memory of LOUISA, daughter of JOHN ROBT. LUCAS, ESQ., and ANNA his wife. She died at Stapleton House in the County of Gloucester, 3rd of March, 1807, aged 16 years. An amiable disposition, engaging manners, and benevolent heart distinguished this affectionate child, and endeared her to her parents and friends, whilst an exemplary goodness and sincere piety recommended her soul to God.

"Look down, blest soul, and from the realms above
Accept this last sad tribute of our love;
The last, ev'n now our sorrows we resign,
And lose our feelings, to rejoice in thine."

Upon the floor of the central passage of the north aisle were lying, until the restoration of 1893–4, the several ledger-stones now relaid beneath the tower, and hereafter to be noticed as in that position; in addition to which were the following, now no longer to be found:

'Here lyeth the body of Eliza, wife of Francis Mitchel, and

daughter of William and Martha Parsons of this parish, who departed this life April the 19th, 1729, aged 25. Also here lieth the body of the aforesaid Francis Mitchel of the parish of Nailsea, who departed this life April the 22nd, 1762, aged 63. Likewise the body of Martha Evans, relict of Edward Evans of the parish of . . ., Gent, and daughter of the aforesaid Francis and Elizth Michel: she departed this life July the 24th, 1791, in the 65th year of her age.'

'Here lieth the body of . . ., wife of John Kilmister of this parish, yeoman, who died October . . ., aged 3: A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband!

> Meek was her temper, modest was her life,
> A tender mother and a virtuous wife.

Also here lieth the body of Moses Kilmister of this parish, yeoman, who died May the 9th, 1766, aged near . . .'

The following are still *in situ*:—

'Sacred to the memory of Elizabeth, wife of Samuel Alvis of this parish, who died February 22nd, 1811, aged 40. Also of Ann, their daughter, who died April 11th, 1802, aged 4 years. Also of Elizabeth, their daughter, who died July 7th, 1814, aged 15. Also of Samuel, his son by Hester his second wife, who died February 22nd, 1815, aged 1 year and 5 months. Also in memory of the aforesaid Samuel Alvis, who departed this life June 20th, 1831, aged . . . years.'

Under the pulpit: 'Here lyeth the body of Adryan Bower, Esq., late of Alaerton, in ye county of Somerset, who departed this life the 3rd day of May, 1686, aged 56 years.'

At the west end of the nave, north of the tower arch, is a tablet of white and grey marble, surmounted by full-length modern figures, male and female, weeping over an urn, upon which are the initials J. L. and the date 1817, and the following shield—

Quarterly: I. Quarterly 1 and 4, '*Argent, a chevron gules between 3 pellets, on a chief azure a moorcock inclosed by 2 crosses crosslet fitchy or*,' Lucas; 2 and 3, '*Gules, 3 covered cups or*,' Butler. II. Quarterly 1, '*Vert, a pale between 2 griffins segreant or*,' Adams; 2 and 3, '*Azure, a double-headed eagle displayed or*,' Lyde; 4, '*Sable, 3 fleurs de lys 2 and 1 argent*,' Adams. III. Quarterly 1 and 4, '*Sable, 3 fleurs de lys 2 and 1 argent*,' Adams; 2 and 3, '*Argent, a horse forcene sable, in chief 3 crosses pattée gules*,' Bush. IV. Quarterly 1 and 4, Lucas, as before; 2 and 3, '*Or, on a fesse azure 3 garbs of the first*,' Vernon. Crest: '*A dexter arm embowed, habited azure and argent, having on its elbow a quatrefoil sable, holding fesseways in the hand ppr. a cross-crosslet fitchy gules.*' Motto: "Pro rege et patria."[177] 'Near this marble are deposited the remains of JOHN LUCAS, Captain of His Majesty's 1st Regiment of Somerset Militia, and only son of J. R. LUCAS of Backwell Hill, in this county. He departed this life November the 10th, 1817, in the 33rd year of his age. As a last sad tribute of gratitude and affection to the memory of the best of sons, this monument is erected by his afflicted parents.'

Upon a small brass plate beneath the last: '+ In affectionate memory of JAMES NICHOLS, for 35 years bailiff on the Tyntesfield estate, Born 1831, Died 1891, this tablet was placed here by his friends in and around this parish as a token of their regard and esteem.'

Under the tower, on flat stones removed from the north aisle and re-laid in 1893–4, lying north and south [Sir Tibbot Gorges, 1467, already described]—

'HERE LYETH THE BODYS OF MR. SAMUEL STILL, CLERK, LATE RECTOR OF WRAXALL, AND ARGENTINE HIS WIFE, WHO BOTH DEPARTED THIS LIFE IN THE YEARE 1698.[178]

[177] This shield, recently re-tinctured, is crowded with a needless repetition of quarterings.

[178] This was originally in the chancel.—Collinson's Somerset, III. 159.

'HERE LYETH THE BODY OF LEWIS KEMYS, GENT. : HE WAS BORN AT LANUAIRE IN MONMOUTHSHIRE IN DECEMBER, 1623, AND DEPARTED THIS LIFE AT NASH THE 23 OF JANUARY, ANNO DOM. 1694.'

'HERE LIETH THE BODY OF ELIZABETH SIMMONS, WIFE OF JAMES SIMMONS, THE ELDEST DAUGHTER OF THOMAS A . . . G OF THIS PARISH, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 9TH DAY OF APRIL, AN. DOM. 1706, AGED 24 YEARS.'[178]

'In memory of WILLIAM VAWER of this parish, Gent., who departed this life September ye 29th, 1748, aged 60. Also of JUDITH his wife, who departed this life September the 2d, 1747, aged 49. In memory of ELIZABETH the wife of LUKE HOLLISTER of this parish, Gent., and daughter of the aforesaid WILLIAM and JUDITH VAWER, who departed this life the 11th of June, 1771, aged 39.'

'In memory of MARY, daughter of ROBERT and HESTER BAKER of the parish of Tickenham yeoman, who died the 18th October, 1772, aged 6 months. Also here resteth the body of the aforesaid HESTER BAKER. She departed this life the 21st day of April, 1786, aged 48 years.

Farewel my loving husband dear,
My children, unto you adieu,
For God hath called me to rest,
In Heaven I hope for to see you,
And there with angels for to sing
Praises to our Heavenly King.

Likewise MARY, daughter of the aforesaid ROBERT and HESTER BAKER who departed this life the 8th of December, 1786, aged 5 years 10 months.

Happy's the babe, who privileged by fate
To shorter labour and a lighter weight,
Receiv'd but yesterday the gift of breath,
Order'd to-morrow to return to death.

[178] A further portion of the inscription, possibly a verse, is illegible.

Also of the aforesaid ROBERT BAKER, who died April 1st 1811, aged 76.'

'To the memory of MARY, wife of THOMAS BAKER, of the parish of Tickenham, Yeoman, who died the 1st October, 1780, aged 53. Also of THOMAS, son of the above THOMAS and MARY BAKER, who died November the 15th, 1786, aged 21. And also of the aforesaid THOMAS BAKER, SEN., who died January 15th, 1799, aged 68. Also of BENJAMIN, their son, who died October 14th, 1802, aged 39.'

Upon a small white marble tablet, against the west wall of the nave, south of the tower arch: 'Sacred to the memory of BETSEY, wife of JOHN BAKER of Congresbury, and of JOHN, their infant son. She died December 24th, 1808, aged 37.'

Upon a double stone-bordered white marble tablet against the south wall of the nave: 'Sacred to the memory of EMILY, youngest daughter of the late THOMAS KINGTON, ESQ., of this parish, who fell asleep in Jesus on the 5th of March, 1845, aged 38 years. "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious Body." Phil. iii. 35. Also of SARAH SUSAN, the eldest daughter of the above, who died on the 19th April, 1849, aged 50 years. "I will fear no evil, for Thou art with me, Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me." Ps. xxiii. 4. Also of CHARLOTTE ANN, the wife of the REV. J. D. HALES, Incumbent of St. John's Church, Richmond, Surrey, obiit. 15th October, 1858, aged 59 years. "I shall be satisfied, when I awake with Thy likeness." Ps. xvii. 15. Sacred to the memory of THOMAS KINGTON, ESQ., of Charlton House, in this parish, obt 19th February, 1857, aged 62 years. "Complete in Him." Col. ii. 10. Also to the memory of SUSANNA ANN KINGTON sister of the above, born May 5th, 1802, died December 9th, 1879. She "being dead yet speaketh."

Heb. xi. 4. Also to the memory of MABEL HENRIETTA, fourth daughter of PHILIP and HENRIETTA KINGTON BLAIR OLIPHANT, and granddaughter of the aforesaid THOMAS KINGTON, Esq., died September 2nd, 1879, aged 14 years. "Is it well with the child? It is well." 2 Kings iv. 26. Also to the memory of PHILIP OLIPHANT KINGTON BLAIR OLIPHANT, second son of the above THOMAS KINGTON, died July 2nd, 1892, aged 59 years. "Until the day dawn and the shadows flee away."'

In the south-east corner of the nave, upon a flat stone: 'Sacred to the memory of BENJAMIN BAKER, of the parish of Flax-Bourton, who departed this life October 17th, 1831, aged 31 years. "Why should we mourn for him that dead (*sic*), released from sin and toil and strife, in hopes to enjoy eternal life." Also in memory of EDWARD DOGGETT, of the parish of Yatton, who departed this life December 15th, 1833, aged 58 years. Also SARAH, the wife of the above EDWARD DOGETT, who died November 7th, 1836, aged 61 years.'

Upon a brass plate in the embrasure of the doorway leading from the nave to the Charlton Chapel, surmounted by the shield, 'Gules, a lion 'dormant,' really couchant between six crosses crosslet argent,' Tynte. 'HIC REQUIESCIT CORPUS JOHANNIS TYNTE ARMIGERI QUI INEUNTE ETATE REBECCAM FILIAM RICHARDI STEVENS ARMIGERI IN UXOREM CEPIT, SED MORIENS SINE PROLE SIBI SUCCESSIT JURE HEREDITARIO EDWARDŮ TYNTE DE CHELVEY ARMIGER FRATER EIUS PROXIMUS, IS ANNAM FILIAM QUARTAM EDWARDI GORGES DE WRAXALL MILITIS IN UXOREM DUXIT, EX QUA NUMEROSAM SUSCEPIT PROLEM, QUIBUS OMNIBUS PROPITIETUR DEUS. OBIJT XIII° DIE OCTOBRIS 1616, ANNO XIIII° REGIS JACOBI.'

Upon a white marble slab, against the south wall of the Charlton Chapel: 'Sacred to the memory of MAJOR WILLIAM

MILES KINGTON, late of the Carabineers, who departed this life on the 23rd February, 1841, aged 44 years.'

Upon another: 'This tablet is erected to the memory of JOHN KINGTON, Esq., whose remains are deposited in this church. He died the 7th of April, 1814, aged 38 years. In the same vault the body of MARY ANN KINGTON, spinster, sister to the above, lies interred. She departed this life the 16th of December, 1814, aged 36 years.' Arms, '*Argent, gutteé de sang, a crescent sable for difference, on a chief wavy per pale gules and vert three ducal coronets or*,' in this case *upon the third*. Crest, '*On a crescent azure four gutteé d'or between two sprigs of myrtle ppr*,' Kington.

Upon another, surmounted by an esquire's helmet and the shield, '*Gules, a chevron erminois between three crosses calvary argent*,' Coopey, impaling '*Gules, a wyvern displayed argent charged on the breast with three ermine spots*,' Brent. Crest: '*A demi-wyvern argent, charged on the breast with three ermine spots*.' Motto: 'Deus providebit.' 'This monument sacred to the memory of MARGARETA, the wife of the Rev. SAMUEL COOPEY, M.A. She was the daughter of the Rev. CHARLES BRENT, M.A., Rector of Christ's Church and St. Werburgh in the city of BRISTOL, and CANON RESIDENTIARY OF ST. DAVID'S. His ancestor came from Normandy with the Conqueror, and had great possessions at COSSINGTON and SOUTH BRENT in the reign of Henry I. Many of the family served the kings of England in the wars both in Gascony and Scotland in the quality of knights, and were great benefactors to the Abbey of Glastonbury. The last possessor of that ancient family, JOHN BRENT, Esq., died at COSSINGTON 1693. This is an account of her family only, but she wanted no advantages of birth to adorn her character. Know then, reader, that if a most compleat education joined with the sweetest temper, if the sincerest heart, if charity and universal benevolence, if all

the social and conjugal virtues adorned with a truly Christian life, could have rescued her from the grave, *thou* wouldest not have seen here inscribed the imperfect description of this excellent woman. After a long and most painful illness, which she bore with a marvellous patience, it pleased GOD to release her from all her miseries and troubles on the 6th day of December, 1744, aged 51. In vicino subtus domicilio cum carissima conjuge dormit SAMUEL COOPEY, A.M., honestissimis parentibus natus. Qualem dum apud mortales commoratus est vitam egit DIES ILLE indicabit. Emigravit. A.D. MDCCL.'

Against the west wall, upon a large marble tablet, bearing the inscription: 'Removed from St. Ewen's Church, BRISTOL,'[180] 'Reverendus CAROLUS BRENT, A.M., antiqua stirpe oriundus, hujus ecclesiæ rector, S^cte. Werburgæ vicarius, ac CANONICUS RESIDENTIARIUS MENEVENSIS, cum duabus Uxoribus totidemque Liberis juxta requiescit. Concionator erat egregius, assiduus, perpolitus. Vitæ probitate ornavit, et splendore sermonum illustravit, magnas Christianæ Religionis Veritates. Difficillimas Theologiæ Questiones mirâ sagacitate explicare ac latentem veritatem eruere optimé novit. Acumine ingenii, suavitate morum, animi candore, benevolentiâ, eruditione, modestiâ inter plurimos excelluisset. Emigravit Junii XIII., A.D. MDCCXXIX., ætatis 63. Cætera infra lege.' An obliterated shield above was doubtless that already given as 'Brent.'

Upon a white marble tablet, surmounted by a dove: 'SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF MARGARET, WIFE OF THOMAS KINGTON, ESQ., OF THIS PARISH, WHO DIED AT TEIGNMOUTH, DEVON, ON THE 14TH SEPTEMBER, 1839, AGED 40. "*Looking unto Jesus.*" ALSO OF JAMES WILLIAM, SON OF THE ABOVE, WHO DIED ON THE 3RD MARCH, 1836, AGED 21 DAYS.'

[180] A parish consolidated with Christ Church, under which heading this inscription is printed in Barrett's Bristol, p. 470.

Upon another: 'SACRED TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS KINGTON, Esq., OF CHARLTON HOUSE, IN THE PARISH OF WRAXALL, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE ON THE 2ND OF APRIL, 1827, AGED 55 YEARS. ALSO OF CHARLOTTE KINGTON, WIFE OF THE ABOVE, WHO DIED ON THE 21ST FEBRUARY, 1844, AGED 69 YEARS. "*Christ is all and in all.*"'

Upon a brass plate on the south wall, beneath one of the windows: 'The East window in the Chancel and those in the Charlton Aisle were dedicated in 1896 to the memory of George Gibbs of Belmont in this parish, who died 28th March, 1863, and of Harriett his wife, who died 15th October, 1865, both of whom are buried in this churchyard.'

Beneath the south porch is the burial-place of the Vaughan family, and against its eastern wall a diamond-shaped brass plate protected by plate glass and bordered in alabaster, bears a cross fleury, its terminations etched in fine lines with representations of a sower, sheaves of corn, a lighthouse, a Bible and pastoral staff, the Sacred Monogram in its centre. Upon its lateral arms, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord;" and across its vertical ones, 'Here rest the mortal remains of John Hensman, Fellow of C.C.C. Cambridge, formerly Curate of Wraxall, who, after 55 years of humble and faithful ministry in the parish of Clifton, died there April 23d, 1864, aged 83 years. Also of Elizabeth his beloved wife, sister of James Vaughan, Rector of Wraxall. She died at Clifton, November 9th, 1860, aged 84 years.'

THE BENEFACTIONS.

Engraved upon two brass plates, framed in stone on the south wall of the nave, placed there in 1851, is the following Table of Benefactions:—

'The Marchioness of Northampton, Relict of Sir Thomas Gorges, Knt., gave £100 to the poor of Wraxall, with which

were purchased the fields called The Fryth Nailsea, the rent to be distributed amongst the poor on St. Thomas' day, as the Churchwardens think fit.

Henry Mugleworth, Esq., of Charlton House in this parish, by his Will June 15th, 1782, gave £10 10s. in trust to the Churchwardens, the interest to be given in bread yearly.

Mrs. Anne Newman, relict of the said H. Muglesworth, afterward wife of Samuel Newman of Bristol, Esq., by her Will dated 30th December, 1783, gave £100 in trust to the Churchwardens, the interest to be given in bread and money on Christmas Day to poor housekeepers and such other poor of this parish as the Churchwardens shall think proper.

The two last bequests, together with £80 arising from the sale of timber on The Fryth, have been invested by the Rector and Churchwardens in a field at Nailsea No. 1281.

Mrs. Elizabeth Martindale by her Will gave £195 Old South Sea Annuities, the dividends to be applied by the Rector and Churchwardens to the education of six poor girls of this parish. A moiety of this sum was invested in 1837 in the erection of the National School Cottage at Failand, and three poor girls of this parish are to be educated in that school free for ever.

By a decree of the Lord High Chancellor, dated 1st April, 1808, it is ordered that the interest from time to time to accrue, due on £702 18s. 8d. 3 per cent. consolidated Bank Annuities, standing in the name of the Accountant General of the Court of Chancery in trust, in the cause Cooper and others against Bengough and others, the parish of Wraxall account, which arises from a legacy given by the Will of Abraham Elton, Esq., deceased, bearing date 10th April, 1794, should be paid to the Rector of this parish until further order of the said Court, to be by him applied, in conjunction with the Churchwardens and Overseers for the time being, for the advantage of the poor of this parish according to the directions of the said Abraham Elton's Will.

Richard Vaughan of Wraxall Lodge erected the schoolroom in the churchyard in 1809, and gave it in trust to the Rector for the time being for the education of the children of this parish for ever. On the 1st January, 1811, he gave also in trust to the Rector for the time being £300 to be invested in such security as the said Rector shall think proper, the proceeds to be applied to the repair of the schoolroom and the religious education of the poor of this parish. To this sum the Rector has added £70, investing £320 in the erection of the school cottage and depositing £50 in the Bristol Savings Bank.

Thomas Kington, Esq., of Charlton House, by his Will dated 3d March, 1813, gave £200 in trust to the Rector and Churchwardens, with which were purchased two fields in Wraxall, No. 779 and 840, the rent to be given to the deserving poor of this parish on the 1st of January, or as near that time as is convenient to the Rector, in bread, coal, or warm clothing.'

THE STAINED WINDOWS.

The series of coloured windows is of so exceptionally beautiful a character that it may be well to describe them as a whole, apart from the architectural features of the church. They are from the burine of Charles Eamer Kempe, Esq., and are among the finest examples of his art. Their subjects are arranged in two sequences —those in the north aisle clustering around the Saviour's birth, those in the Charlton Chapel around His Passion, the whole culminating in 'the Majesty' of the eastern window of the chancel.

'The Annunciation' in the three-light western north aisle window, a subject which lends itself more readily to one of two-lights, is cleverly treated under difficult conditions. There is a continuous ornate interior, with garden and landscape seen through an arcade of small Romanesque arches. In the centre a rich group of devotional furniture—a book-case *prie-dieu* just vacated by its

owner, her conventional lily in a brazen vase, lighted candles, books of devotion lying open with the text from the Song of Hannah, '**Exultavit cor meum**'[181] and '**Vocabant me beatam**;' the Holy Dove, emitting crimson rays of glory, sweeping down from above,—with the legend on a scroll, '**Ave, Maria, gratiæ plena, Dns tecum.**' The angel Gabriel in the dexter light, nimbed and crowned, in jewelled cope, dalmatic and albe, his right hand raised in benediction, carries in his left a sceptre bearing the crowned initial M and a vexillum with '**Ave Maria.**' The Blessed Virgin in the sinister light, in robe of blue, over which is a white embroidered mantle, stands at a lectern reading, with a look of absorption, while from her lips upon a riband runs the familiar aspiration, '**Ecce Ancilla Dñi, fiat mihi secundū verbū tuū.**' In the tracery a choir of demi-angels, crowned and wearing copes, support the chant, '**Gloria tibi, Dñe, qui natus es de Virgine.**'

In the adjoining window on the north (they are all of three lights) 'the Nativity' follows. The dexter and central lights are filled with shepherds, who, in dark-coloured, fur-lined hoods and cloaks, one of them carrying musical pipes, stand and kneel in adoration, while S. Joseph holds a lantern from which he has removed its lighted candle. In the distance shepherds amongst their flocks are listening to the Heavenly message, while in the sinister light the Blessed Virgin, in dark blue robe and white mantle, unveils to view the Babe Divine, a vested attendant angel[182] kneeling at her side, while a similarly-clad celestial choir, descending a broad staircase from above, maintains the song, '**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**' Demi-angels in the tracery repeat the strain, '**Gloria tibi, Dñe, qui natus es de Virgine.**'

[181] It is pleasant to think of the Blessed Virgin learning by heart the song of Hannah (1 Sam. ii. 1). Another three-light window similarly treated by the same artist is in the church of Reigate in Surrey.

[182] Milton's Ode on the Nativity, last line.

'The Adoration of the Magi' occupies the third window, in the sinister light of which the Blessed Virgin, robed as before, is seated beneath a thatched shed, her Divine Son upon her knees, the guiding Star above their heads. In the near distance S. Joseph is approaching from the cattle-shed. The other lights are occupied by the three gorgeously-apparelled Kings with rich Oriental crowns and turbans, and strange caskets in their hands, their retinue accompanying them; a fortified city in the central distance. More angels in the tracery above continue the eternal song of praise already twice repeated.

The remaining window on the north, included now in the chapel east of the organ-screen, contains a beautiful picture of 'The Presentation in the Temple,' the Event Itself in the sinister light, where the Blessed Virgin Mother and the aged Simeon, standing together, support between them their Holy Burden, Who lies with crossed arms and gentle smile, while from the old man's trembling lips escapes the 'Nunc dimittis servū tuū.' In the dexter light the aged Anna is seen entering the sanctuary, with hands uplifted, clad in dark robe and embroidered mantle, her hood drawn over her head, while the Virgin Mother and her Holy Child approach from behind. In the central light S. Joseph offers at the altar the accustomed offering, in a barred cage, the priest with his office-book standing by. The background represents a rich Romanesque interior, lighted by pendant lamps. The tracery is treated like that of the other windows.

In the Charlton Chapel on the opposite side of the church increased gloom and darker colouring indicate a change of subjects. The events of the Passion are treated in a double row of continuous pictures, interrupted by the mullions of the two southern windows. 'The Agony in the Garden' represents the ministration of the chalice to the kneeling Sufferer by an angel, the slumbering

Apostles in the foreground, while in the near distance the approach of the traitor and his band over a covered bridge into the olive grove, and the actual betrayal scene, are portrayed. In the lower portion of the same window is 'The Hall of Judgment.' Within a Romanesque arcaded building Pilate, richly clothed, is seated on his chair of state, his wife in ermine-lined robe accosting him, while a page pours into a basin the water for his hands, and priests and Roman soldiers stand and gaze. The sentenced Victim is led forth between two of His guards, a fine group of whom precede and follow, one bearing aloft the brazen eagle with the S.P.Q.R. of Imperial Rome.

In the higher tier of the adjoining window is the 'Ecce Homo.' Pilate, in magnificent apparel, standing at the top of a flight of stairs, his Holy Prisoner, with tied hands and crimson robe, beside him, while at the bottom kneels a scoffing soldier in feigned adoration, bystanders of all classes looking on and reviling. The 'Via Dolorosa' finds illustration below, the Saviour, the central Figure, bearing His Cross, S. Veronica offering her kerchief on her knees; in advance a procession of soldiers, one of them carrying in a basket the implements of crucifixion, while a dignified Pharisee bears the title INRI in his hands; behind, a group of sorrowing women, headed by the Blessed Virgin and S. John, a man on horseback and another with a ladder bringing up the rear. The backgrounds of both the windows are very sombre in tone; the fortified city of Jerusalem is seen behind. Beneath the subjects, on broad bands, are extracts from the ancient office for Good Friday known as 'The Reproaches': 'O! My people, what have I done unto thee, and wherein have I wearied thee? Answer Me.'[183] And the additional lamentations: 'I gave thee a royal sceptre, and thou gavest Me a crown of thorns.' 'Because I brought

[183] Micah vi. 3, 4.

thee out of the land of Egypt, thou hast prepared a cross for thy Saviour.' 'I led thee with manna through the desert, and thou beatest Me with buffets and scourges.' 'I went before thee in a pillar of cloud, and thou leddest Me before Pilate's judgment-seat.' In the tracery, demi-angels bear golden shields with the emblems of the Passion.

The east window of the chantry contains the Crucifixion, a dignified presentment of the Saviour occupying its central, S. Mary the Blessed Virgin, and S. John its side lights, with a background of the architecture of the Holy City, and vested angels in the diapered and star-spangled sky. The skill of the artist is commemorated by a small armorial shield in the upper tracery—'Gules, 3 garbs within a bordure engrailed or, entoyre de pomeis,' for Kempe; while another bears the initials E. A. T., those of his chief artificer. The other spaces have the Sun, the Moon, and the Evangelistic symbols. The tone of this window is lighter than that of its companions, having a larger admixture of white glass.

In the chancel two smaller southern windows, from the studio of Mr. T. C. Tute, illustrate 'The Entombment' and 'The Resurrection,' while Mr. Kempe's magnificent east window culminates the whole. This is of five lights, the grand figure of Our Lord in majesty, splendidly apparelled, His right hand raised in benediction, in His left the orb of uuiversal sovereignty, seated upon a decorative canopied throne, occupying the central space. At His feet, two seated angels in jewelled copes bear between them upon a scroll the legend '**Laudate Dnm de celis. Laudate Eum in excelsis.**' In the adjoining lights are richly-attired seated figures of SS. Peter and Paul, the former carrying his keys, the latter in his right hand an open book inscribed, '**In Nomen Jesu omne genu flectatur,**' and in his left the sword of his martyrdom. Behind them stand the Blessed Virgin and S. John the Evangelist, the first crowned and

holding a lily, the second a pen in his right hand, and in his left his open Gospel inscribed, 'Verbum caro factus,' a golden eagle upon a lectern at his side. In the north and south lights are seated, in full pontificals, S. Augustine of Canterbury, wearing a precious mitre, and holding a vexillum with a crucifix upon it in one hand, and his archiepiscopal cross in the other; and S. Gregory the Great, wearing the triple Papal crown and a jewelled cope, the triple cross in his right hand. Behind these stand S. John the Baptist with his bannered cross, and S. Andrew with his own. In the starry sky, supported upon conventional radiated clouds, are white-vested angels with coloured wings in attitudes of adoration. The entire composition is highly finished and effective, the faces fine as miniatures. In the tracery are twelve armorial shields. Over the central lights:

I. Quarterly: 1. Lozengy, or and azure, a chevron gules, Gorges (2d coat); 2. Argent, on a chief gules three bezants, Russell of Dyrham; 3. Gules, a lion rampant ermine, Oldhall; 4. Argent, a chevron sable between three gads erminés, Englowes.

II. Argent, three battleaxes, 2 and 1, within a bordure nebulé sable, Gibbs.

III. Russell, as before.

IV. Sable, a chevron argent between three infants' heads couped at the shoulder of the second crined or enwrapped about the neck with as many snakes ppr., Vaughan.

Over the dexter lights:

V. Argent, a gurges azure, Gorges (1st coat).

VI. Gorges (2d coat), as before.

VII. Oldhall, as before.

VIII. Englowes, as before.

Over the sinister lights:

IX. Gibbs, as before, impaling argent on a pile issuing from chief azure a demi-lion rampant of the first, in base two fleurs de lys of the second, Merivale.

X. Merivale, as before.

XI. Gibbs, as before, impaling Quarterly 1 and 4, Erminois on a fesse azure between three cranes ppr. a saltire humetty between two crosses crosslet fitchée or, Crawley. 2 and 3, ermine, a bend gules gutteé d'or between two martlets sable, Boevey.

XII. Quarterly, Crawley, and Boevey, as before.

In the apex, on scrolls, twice repeated: **Laus Deo.**

Quite distinct from the two sequences described are special windows in the nave and tower. One of them, over against the font, may be termed 'The Baptismal window,' the other 'The Angelic one.' Single figures fill the upper spaces of the first: S. John the Baptist, in the centre, with his camel's-hair coat beneath a green mantle, holds upon his right arm on closed book the couchant Holy Lamb, and in his left hand his traditional wooden cross, the vexillum inscribed '**Ecce Agnus Dei.**' Noah, upon his right, wears crimson robe and white embroidered mantle, and holds aloft upon one wrist the dove, and in his other hand an olive branch and a model of the ark. Moses, on his left, very similarly attired, with scintillations of glory from his forehead, carries his rod and the open tables of the Law. The initials of the three appear in the borders of the lights, the lower part of which represents the Baptism of Our Lord. Standing in a sedge-grown brook, with a crimson cloth around His form, He receives the Sacrament from a scallop-shell at the hands of His Forerunner kneeling upon the bank, the radiated Holy Dove alighting upon Him, while beautifully-vested attendant angels hold towels on either

side. Six demi-angels in the tracery above bear upon scrolls the legends—'Benedicite maria, et. flumina Dn̄o.' 'Laudate et sup' exaltate Eū in sccula.'[184]

Warrior angels, clad in full plate armour of varied design, bearing pennons with crosses thereon, with jewelled and ermined mantles over their shoulders, occupy the three lights of the western window, and support their leader, S. Michael, in their midst, similarly clad, as with cross-headed lance he transfixes the crimson dragon prone beneath his feet. Small demi-angels in the apex hold shields with monograms.

THE COMMUNION PLATE.

In 1419 Agnes, relict of Thomas Gorges, Esq., bequeathed to Wraxall Church 'one gilt cup,' and in 1511 Sir Edmund Gorges 'a chalice to the valeur of £5.'

These pre-Reformation articles have long since been confiscated, or have disappeared. And so has 'a branched candlestick,' noted by Collinson as 'given by Isaac Martindale, gent, in the year 1728.'

The plate at present in use consists of—1. A pair of capacious bell-shaped cups on high stems, 8½ inches high, the bowls 4½ inches in diameter: on the older of the two the hall-mark of 1660 or 1662; on the companion cup, made to correspond, the hall-mark of 1702 (Newcastle), the maker's initials illegible on both. 2. A pair of plain footed patens, 2⅜ inches high, 8 inches in diameter: upon one the hall-mark (London) 1702, maker's initials L.O., with a key, date engraved 1713; upon the other the hall-mark (London) 1723–4, maker's initials T.M., with a star below, within a trefoil. 3. A large plated flagon of tankard type,

[184] From the 'Benedicite,'—one of the antiphons at Lauds on the Feast of Epiphany.

with spout, curved handle, and domed lid. It is probably the later of the two patens mentioned above which was the gift of Elizabeth (who died 1733), relict of Samuel Gorges, Esq., as noted by Collinson.

THE REGISTERS.

Of these the earliest is a small folio of ninety-two leaves of vellum, in good preservation, rebound in leather, with some blank leaves of paper at the end. Recorded separately are Baptisms, 1563 to 1721; Marriages, 1562 to 1717; Burials, 1562 to 1721. The entries, in one handwriting to the close of the 17th century, are evidently those of the Elizabethan copyist. Upon the flyleaf at the beginning is the inscription:—

> 'Feare God, Honour y^e^ King,
> Let those y^t^ feare GOD for ever say & sing.'

On leaves at the end are 'An Inventory of the Church goods,' and 'A Terrier' of the Rectorial Glebe, both taken in 1634, under the signatures of 'Ezechiell Pownell,' then Rector, and Thomas Porter and David Tilly, Churchwardens. There is also a late instance of a 'License to eat flesh in Lent,' granted in 1666 by the Rector aforesaid to Samuel Gorges, Esq., and Jane his wife.[185] After the close of this book, the entries of Baptisms and Burials are continuously recorded in other volumes, but there is an interruption in the Marriages until 1754, when they are recommenced upon the printed formula then in use for the publication of banns and celebration of marriages, in a vellum folio, continued to 1812, when it was superseded by the modern registers. It is unfortunate that no explanation is obtainable of the loss of the missing volume, and application at the Diocesan Registry at Wells reveals the fact that there are no transcripts

[185] Printed in Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries, I. 57.

there of that period. Of the Churchwardens' books none is extant before 1707, though reference is made to an earlier volume. From that date they are well kept and written, and the rates confirmed by the signatures of the magistrates.

There are entries of the Gorges family from 1564 to 1708, of the Babers from 1566 to 1750, of the Sheppards from 1591 to 1637, of the Wales or Wallish family from 1577 to 1718, of the Harbords [baptisms only] 1596 to 1616, of the Tyntes from 1571 to 1616. The Marriage Registers, by kind permission of the Rector, are about to be printed in Mr. Phillimore's Somerset series. Robert Willmatt was approved and sworne as 'Register' of the Parish, February 17th, 1653, by Ri. Jones, Esq., J.P.

The second Register of Baptisms, a paper folio newly covered in leather, contains upon thirty-five leaves the entries from 1731 to 1812. The first page has been re-mounted, and suggests the probable loss of one or more of the earlier leaves, and of their record of Baptisms from 1721 to 1731. A memorandum under the date 1801 mentions the death of the Rev. Robert Simpkinson, Rector, in that year, and the induction of his successor, the Rev. James Vaughan. The second Register of Burials, a precisely similar volume, has upon thirty-one leaves the entries from 1721 to 1812. From 1751 to 1771 affidavits are recorded of burial in woollen, according to the Act then in force. The bulk of both books, discontinued in 1812, and superseded by the modern forms still in use, remains blank. There are entries in 1752 and 1800 of the baptism of negro boys in domestic service.[186] The admirable condition of all the parish books is due to the reverent care bestowed upon them by the Rector and his immediate predecessors.

[186] These were slaves, purchased probably at Bristol, the great emporium for them. It is pleasant to find their masters caring for their spiritual interests.

THE RECTORS.

From 'Somerset Incumbents, edited by the Rev. F. W. Weaver, vicar of Milton Clevedon, Evercreech, 1889,' pp. 302–3, continued from other sources.

Date of Institution.	Incumbent.	How Vacated.	Patron.
A.D.			
	Adam de Morville [187]		
1311.	Joh: de Overton [188]		
1318.	Walt: de Eudon [189]	per res: J. de O.	Rad: Gorges.
1320.	Ric: de Buron or Bourne [190]	per cess: Walt....	Sir Ralph Gorges.
1325.	Joh: Kyvele [191]	per mut: c. R.B.	Hug: de Courteney, mil: ratione custodiæ man: de Wroxhall, et Radulphi fil: Rad: de Gorges nuper defuncti.
There must be omitted institutions between 1325 and 1401, one of which is supplied by the will of Sir Theobald de Gorges, which is at Lambeth, dated 1380, in which he appoints Thomas Monnex, Rector of Wraxall, one of his executors.			
1401. Dec. 13	Joh: Bathe		
1406. Nov. 3	Ric: Brynkele... ...	per res: J.B. ...	Tho: Norton, Arm.
1409. Mar. 8	Joh: Lokhawe... ...	per mut: c. R.B.[192]	
1416. Dec. 18	Nich: Sturgeon ...	per mut: c. J.L.[193]	Joh: Rodney, Will: Beaucham, Hug: Pyke, Tho: Norton, jun: fil:, Tho: Norton de Bristol.
1433. May 17	Will: Waynflete [194]...	per res: N.S. ...	Theobald Gorges, mil.
1436. Nov. 18	Will: Stephens Canon: Wellens	per mort: W.W.[194]	
1447. Oct. 1	Tho: Heynes	per mort: W.S....	Theobald Gorges, mil.

187 This name, not in Mr. Weaver's list, has been kindly supplied by the Rev. Canon Holmes. Adam de Morville died September 22, 1265. It was found in a fragmentary Register of Bishop Gifford, bound up with other documents at York.

188 Or Everdon. Forced to resign by the 'contra plurales' constitution.—Bp: Drokensford's Register. Somerset Record Soc., Vol. I., p. 12.

189 Or Everdon.

190 Confessing to the Bishop his non-residence and contumacy, whereby he was liable to excommunication and sequestration, he obtained absolution "in formâ juris" on promise "de stando et parendo," and giving sureties. But finding it convenient to leave the diocese, he effected an exchange with John Kyvele for the Vicarage of Shalfleet in the Isle of Wight. Bp: Drakensford's Register, as above, p. 253. These early rectors seem to have been somewhat irregular in their conduct.

191 '1348. Monitus ad residend: in eâdem.' Wells Dioc: Reg: Harleian MSS. Brit: Mus: Register of Bishop Ralph de Salopia. Som. Rec. Soc. X., 725, 728.

192 For the Rectory of Towcester.

193 For the Rectory of Avening and Chapel of Alveston (Allerton) juxta Weare.

194 It would have been pleasant to have been able to identify this Rector with his namesake and cotemporary, the great Bishop of Winchester and Founder of Magdalen Coll., Oxford, some of whose biographers, *e.g.* Wood and Chalmers, have done so. But the most reliable and careful of them has concluded that the evidence of the Diocesan Registers renders it impossible. Chandler's Life of Waynflete, 17. Phelps, however (MSS. continuations to Collinson, Brit: Mus: Vol. VII.) has fallen into the same error.

Date of Institution.	Incumbent.	How Vacated.	Patron.
A.D.			
1455. May 24	Will: Prout or Prowe [195]	per mort: T.H. ...	Theobald Gorges, mil.
1467. July 17	Joh: Mede, A.M.[196] Tho: Moyse	per res: W.P. ...	Ditto
1493. May 14	Will: Drewe Capellanus	per mort: T.M. ...	Edmund Gorges, mil.
1501. Jan. 12	Tho: Austyll, LL.B.	per res: W.D. ...	Ditto
1503. Mar. 8	Tho: Gyllyngham [197]	per res: T.A. ...	Ditto
1514. Dec. 14	Edm: Ken, A.M. ...	per mort: T.G. ...	Ditto
1545. Oct. 31	Joh: Barlow	per mort: E.K...	Ditto
1546. April 10	Ric: Netheway ...	per mort: J.B. ...	Ditto
1554 Sep. 21	Edw: Toogood, A.M.		Ditto
1560. Dec. 18	Tho: Lewis	per mort: ult: Rect:	Edw: Gorges, gen:
1562. June 19	Will: Cook	per mort: ult: Rect:	Ditto Arm:
1574. Oct. 8	Will: Jones, LL.B.[198]	per res: W.C. ..	Alicia nup: ux: Hen: Dodyngton, Marg: et Jana Gorges sorores, Edw: Gorges Arm: def.
1609. Mar. 5	Rob: Gulliford, S.T.B.[199] [200]	per mort: W.J....	Edward Gorges mil.
1613. May 15	Ezekiel Pownell, A.M.[201]	suc: R.G.	Jac. Rex.
1663. April 21	Tho: Gorges, S.T.P.[202]	suc: E.P.	Rob: Cary mil:, Geo: et Eliz: Cary frater et soror Rob: Cary mil.
1667. Feb. 4	Ric: (or Edward) Ancketyll, A.M.[203]	suc: T.G.	Sam: Gorges, Arm.

195 Afterwards Master of the Hosp: of S. John at Bedminster.

196 Juramentum præstitit di·solvend: ann: pensionem & lib ad cantariâ fundatâ eccle: Cath: Wells: ad altarem Sancti Crucis.

197 Witness to the Will of Sir Edmund Gorges, Knt., 1511.

198 Prebendary of Wells, 1567. D.C.L. 1574. Married Margaret, daughter of Edmund Gorges Esq., Vicar-General to Bishop of Bath and Wells, "double and treble beneficed in the diocese thereof," Wood's Fasti Oxon. Died 1609. His gravestone was in the chancel. Collinson, Vol. III. p. 159.

199 Prebendary of Bristol, died 1612—buried there, but entered at Wraxall. Will 1612. Som. Wills, V. 42. Barrett's Bristol, p. 340.

200 There is no room in this place for Nathaniel Pownell, Registrar of the Diocese of Bristol, buried at S. Augustine's the Less in 1611, and stated to have been rector here, and to have built the Rectory House. Barrett's Bristol, p. 407. He has evidently been confounded with his namesake, the succeeding rector, who held the benefice for fifty years. His will, 1611, styles him Nathaniel Pownell, of Bristol, gent, Registrar of the Diocese of Bristol by patent. Somersetshire Wills, I. 26.

201 Buried here 1662-3.

202 This is thought to have been a re-institution, and that he had held the benefice before the outbreak of civil war, and been rejected. He was the fifth son of Sir Edward Gorges, of Charlton, Knt., Fellow of All Souls 1629, Prebendary of Sarum 1643, Rector of North Stoneham, Hants, Archdeacon of Winton 1660, Prebendary of Westminster 1661. Walker's 'Sufferings of the Clergy,' II. 70.

203 Rector of Clapton in Gordano, ob. 1685.

Date of Institution.	Incumbent.	How Vacated.	Patron.
A.D.			
1686. April 20	Tho: Holt, S.T.P.,[204] Cancellarius et Canonicus Wellens:	per mort: R.A. ...	Edw: Gorges, Arm.
1689. June 5	John Trenchard, A.B.	per mort: T.H. ...	Ditto
1694. Aug. 2	Sam: Still[205]	per mort: J.T. ...	Ditto
1698. May 21	Edm. Estcourt, A.M.[206]	per mort: S.S. ...	Ditto
1711. Nov. 19	Sam: Coopey, A.M.[207]	per mort: E.E. ...	John Codrinton, Arm.
1750.	William Batt[208] ...		The King, by lapse.
1767.	Reginald Cotton ...		Sir Chas. Warwick Bampfylde, Bart.
1780.	James Cumming ...		Oldfield Bowles, Esq.
1781.	Robert Simkinson ...		Ditto
1801.	James Vaughan[209] ...		Richard Vaughan, Esq.
1857.	Edward Protheroe Vaughan[210]		Himself.
1891.	Henry Vaughan[211] ...		

204 Buried at Wraxall, 1688, æt. 80. His monumental tablet in the chancel.

205 Married here, November 6th, 1678, Argentine Ancketyll, daughter of Richard, called in the entry of the marriage Edward, one of his predecessors in the Rectory. Killed by a fall from his horse on Wraxall Hill.

206 Buried here 1711. Will 1710. Somerset Wills, VI. 12.

207 He preached a remarkable Assize Sermon at the trial of rioters at Bristol on the Accession of George I., Seyer's Bristol, II. 566. He died, 'emigravit' 1750. His monument is in the south chantry.

208 Died 1766.

209 Ob. 1857. Monumental tablet in the chancel. He purchased the advowson in 1808.

210 M.A. of Balliol Coll., Oxford, ob. 1891. Monumental brass in chancel.

211 M.A. of University Coll., Oxford. Rural Dean 1900.

THE RECTORY.

The advowson of the church went with the manor,[212] the lords of which, as will be seen from the list of patrons, nominated the rectors. On two occasions only the Crown appointed. About the year 1800, upon the bankruptcy of Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, Bart., the next presentation was purchased by Richard Vaughan of St. Michael's Hill, Bristol, Esq., and in 1808 the advowson by the Rev. James Vaughan, whom he had appointed to

212 They were conveyed together, 4 Edw. III., 1330–1, to Ralph de Gorges and Elizabeth his wife, with remainders to the sons in succession of Theobald Russel, and their heirs.—Som. Fines, Som. Rec. Soc., XII. 146.

the Rectory, which remains in his family. The tithe rent-charge was commuted at £528, and there is a glebe of seventy-six acres. The value of the benefice was considerably augmented in 1893, under the Will of the late Richard Vaughan, Esq., who placed in trust the sum of £40,000, the income to be paid to the Rector for the time being, and also the further sum of £24,000, for the purpose of establishing a Curate's fund for Wraxall and Failand, at which latter place he had built during his lifetime a handsome church and curate's residence at the cost of £12,000.

In 1811 the Rev. James Vaughan obtained a private Act of Parliament for the severance from the mother-church of her two dependent chapelries of Nailsea and Flax Bourton, and their joint constitution as a separate benefice, an arrangement which, curiously enough, had been recommended by Commissioners in the time of Cromwell. Mr. Vaughan purchased a house at Nailsea close to the church, and made it over for a Rectory, resigning the tithe and fees arising from that chapelry for its endowment, and disposing of its patronage to James Adam Gordon of Naish, Esq., from whom it passed to the mother of the Rev. Frederic Brown, who appointed her son to the Rectory, which then included the chapelry of Flax Bourton. By his exertions a further division was effected in 1844, when by Order in Council the last-named place was made independent, its quota of tithe and fees appended to it, and it became a Rectory in 1866, its patronage being subsequently transferred to Antony Gibbs of Tyntesfield, Esq., who further endowed it with a Rectory house and eight acres of meadow and orchard.

There are but few items of interest in the ecclesiastical history of Wraxall. In 1450, by the connivance of Sir Theobald Gorges, the patron, and Thomas Heynes, the rector, an annual pension or payment of £10 was assigned out of the profits of the Rectory to

the Chapel of the Holy Cross in Wells Cathedral, called Stortewate's Chantry, for masses there "for the good estate of Sir Theobald Gorges, his ancestors and successors."[213] It is hardly surprising to find that in 1547, nearly a hundred years later, the chaplain, Giles Buttal, made plaint that "the said yerely pencon had been w^th^holden by the psones of the said churche of Wrexall, and Sir Edwarde Gorges knighte patrone and fermor of the same, by the space of vj or vij yeres."

There was an 'Obit' also in Wraxall Church, when or by whom founded does not appear, endowed with two tenements and their gardens in Temple Street, Bristol, worth yearly xij^s.^ iiij^d.^[214]

The Rev. Thomas Gorges, S.T.P., whose name appears among the subsequent list of rectors, was probably in possession of this benefice at the outbreak of civil war, and ejected by his intruded successor, for in the Journals of the House of Lords, under date 1660, it is ordered that, upon his petition, 'a sequestration of the profits of Wraxall into the hands of the churchwardens is hereby discharged, and that the possession and profits of the said rectory be restored and continued to Thomas Gorges, Clerk, until the suit between him and Ezekiel Pownell depending in Chancery shall otherwise determine the same.' There was not much love lost between them. In his last Will, August 17th, 1667,[215] Dr. Gorges constitutes Hugh Tynte, Esq., his exor, 'provided the said Hugh Tynte shall refund, restore, and release all the church lands belonging to Wraxall which he hath in his possession, which his father got of Ezekiel Pownell at play, of which I am witness: all these to be restored within three months.' Of his brother, Samuel Gorges, Esq., he says:—"I give and remit to my brother Samuel

[213] Phelp's Somerset, II. 146. Survey of Somerset Chantries; Som. Rec. Soc., II. 161-2.

[214] Idem, 84, 265.

[215] Somerset Wills, VI. 97.

all the tithes he has detained from me, and do forgive him all the incivilities and wrongs he hath done me from the beginning of the world to this day."

It is said that Sir Charles Warwick Bampfylde, Bart., who with his wife residing at Wraxall Court, planted the belt of trees adjoining the churchyard on the west to lessen the sound of the bells, once cut their ropes with a carving-knife, and had to do penance for the offence by standing clad in a white sheet in the church during Divine service.

Standing in pleasant grounds, with ample gardens, and picturesque adjoining glebe, well-timbered and sloping upwards towards the east to beautiful hanging woods upon its crest, the rectory-house has a southern aspect, and an extensive view across the intervening valley to the wooded range of Backwell and Brockley, and the Mendip hills beyond. Erroneously stated to have been built by Nathaniel Pownell, Registrar of the Diocese of Bristol, who died in 1611,[216] a near relative, perhaps the father of Ezekiel Pownell, who held the benefice for fifty years, from 1613 to 1663, it is certainly more than a century earlier than the first-named date, as is apparent from the massive construction of its southern walls—more than three feet in thickness—and from the character of its cusped and transomed windows on the west. Fallen into decay, abandoned by the rectors, and divided into tenements, it was at length reclaimed and restored about 1801 by the Rev. James Vaughan, who rebuilt the greater part of the house, adding stables in 1814, sinking a well 100 feet deep, and laying out the lawn and grounds. It is now a commodious and attractive residence, the recent discovery in 1891 of a handsome Tudor stone fireplace in the dining-room being an additional feature of interest. The previous home of the rectors had been a

[216] Barrett's Bristol, 407.

low-lying, rose-covered building adjoining the gardens, and close to the high-road. The fine ilex on the lawn was planted in 1802, as were also the trees at the top of the home field.

In 1801, the only school in the village was kept by an old dame in a cottage, since pulled down, below the rectory. She taught the children "criss-cross" and "to sit still." This was her own account of it. 'Criss' or Christ's Cross was an alphabet printed in that form, and protected by a sheet of transparent horn.

In 1809, Richard Vaughan, Esq., then residing at Wraxall Lodge, built at his own cost the schoolroom in the churchyard, no other site being attainable for the purpose, using timber obtained from a man-of-war broken up at Bristol. The building bears the following inscription: 'Erected in the year MDCCCIX. by the late Richard Vaughan, Esq., and given in trust to the Rector for the time being, for the education of the children of this parish for ever, as recorded on the tablet in the Church.' Upon the school cottage, serving as a lodge, at the entrance of the churchyard on the west, is a similar one: 'Erected in MDCCCXXVII. with part of the sum of three hundred pounds given in trust to the Rector of this parish by the late Richard Vaughan, Esq., as recorded on the tablet in the church.'

In 1856, William Gibbs of Tyntesfield, Esq., erected the present boys' school and master's house, and soon afterwards the girls' school was built by Antony Gibbs, Esq., then of Charlton, now of Tyntesfield, both upon sites given by Sir Greville Smyth, Bart.

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